

America 250 Picnic Table Project winners announced

Part of Milford Cultural Council's 'Brush to Table' initiative

By Geri Eddins

The Milford Cultural Council (MCC), in partnership with the Italian American World War Veterans of the U.S. Post 40 (ITAM), is pleased to announce the winning artists for the America 250 Picnic Table Project. The Council extends its appreciation to all the artists who submitted designs to the Call to Artists for three new picnic tables to be creatively painted in a patriotic theme to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The winning design titles and artists are:



Amelia Ledrich works on her award-winning picnic table entry, "Home of the Brave." She and her mother make up a team that is one of three winners in this year's 'America 250 Picnic Table Project,' part of the Milford Cultural Council's 'Brush to Table' initiative. Courtesy photo

PICNIC TABLE

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Data center discussions move through town government

By Scott Calzolaio

At its meeting on Sept. 1, the Milford Planning Board discussed and approved a zoning bylaw amendment that would affect the terms in which a data center could be built in town.

With the proposed bylaw amendment, the construction of a data center would have to be considered under special permit, and only in certain areas of town. The motion passed, and the bylaw amendment will be sent to Town Counsel for warrant consideration, and then Town Meeting approval.

Data centers have been at the center of discussion and controversy for many municipalities in Massachusetts and beyond, said board member Christopher Wilson.

"I'm not totally against data centers," he said. "They're an im-



Milford Planning Board members discussed data centers at their meeting on Sept. 1. Board member Christopher Wilson, left, said data centers are important but the town has to consider whether or not, and how, to incorporate them into town. Image source: @MyMilfordTV on YouTube

portant component as technology evolves; it's just whether or not, and how, we fit them into Milford

DATA CENTER

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PICNIC TABLE

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• “Honoring All Those Who Served” by veteran and artist Tasha DeBlois;

• “The Minuteman” by mural artist David O’Gara; and

• “Home of the Brave” by mother-daughter duo Lisa Sullo and Amelia Ledrich.

The artists painted the tables over the summer. The three tables will be placed under the Fontecchio Pavilion at Milford’s ITAM Veterans Hall, just steps off the Upper Charles Trail at 4 Hayward Field. The goal was to have the tables completed and in place before Labor Day. These tables will join three tables that were painted in patriotic themes in 2022 and 2025 as part of the council’s ongoing Brush to Table initiative. Each of the winning artists will be awarded a \$500 stipend upon completion of their tables cour-

tesy of ITAM Post 40.

Milford Cultural Council Chairperson Geri Eddins says, “The council received a diverse range of designs from professional artists, art students, and community members. We are so grateful for this enthusiastic participation and the financial support offered by ITAM Post 40 and look forward to showcasing more local talent in this functional public art that celebrates our country’s 250th anniversary.”

This year’s public art project is a third round of the MCC’s Brush to Table Picnic Table Project, which has placed artistically painted picnic tables throughout Milford’s parks and outdoor community spaces since 2021. In 2022 the council launched Trash to Treasure, which invited artists to transform trash barrels into works of art for placement in parks and along the Upper Charles River Trail. And in 2025, the council

worked with the Parks Department, the National Fitness Campaign, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts to bring the Town’s first large-scale mural to Milford Town Park as an eye-catching central element of the newly installed Fitness Court Studio®. Collectively, the council refers to all of these projects as Art in the Parks.

To see a map and portfolio of Brush to Table and Trash to Treasure designs completed since the inaugural project initiated in 2021, visit <https://bit.ly/MilfordMAPublicArtPortfolio>.

For more information about this project, contact Cultural-Council@TownofMilford.com or visit MilfordMA.gov/309/Cultural-Council.

About the Milford Cultural Council

As a local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Milford Cultural Council seeks to promote excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences



Lisa Sullo, together with her daughter Amelia Ledrich (page 1), work on their award-winning picnic table entry, “Home of the Brave.” Courtesy photo

to foster a rich cultural life for all Milford residents, thereby contributing to the vitality of our community and economy. The council welcomes ideas, recommendations, and feedback regarding programs and events funded or sponsored by the council. Interested Milford residents are encouraged to attend meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. typically in Room 14 of Town Hall.

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Graveyards in Milford over the centuries

*By Marsha Mancuso
Milford Historical Society*

The very early settlers of Milford were buried on their farms or in their yards. Most burials were private affairs and did not involve church officials until the 1790s. The first people to be buried in a graveyard are buried in the Old Town Cemetery in Mendon because Milford was originally part of Mendon. Many of those stones have no information on them, only the elite would have been honored with sculptured memorials.

If you're wondering where the very first cemetery was located in present-day Milford, you need look no further than Memorial Hall because right beneath that building is where the original cemetery was located. As a member of the Historical Commission, working in that place every week, I have wondered about those who were initially buried beneath where the building now stands, but I must report I have experienced no hauntings.

At a precinct meeting in March 1747, it was voted that the Deacon Nathaniel Jones of the Congregational Church would buy a half an acre of land for a burying ground on the corner of what is now Spruce and School Streets. At that point, there were already a couple of the early settlers buried there. In 1780, the town took custody of the graveyard. In 1805, a carriage house - a place to store the funeral carriage (Milford's first hearse) - was added. In 1809, some of the more elite citizens in town were given permission to build tombs

which faced School Street. The writings indicate that those were demolished, but does not say how. The records indicate that the stones were righted and the graveyard cleaned. However, sometimes folklore can provide insights. One of the members of the Historical Commission, now passed, stated that it was due to a flood that washed away caskets and tipped over tombstones. It seems strange that this information was not noted in the very detailed history written by Adin Ballou, but perhaps we should give that oral tradition some merit. It certainly makes for a good story.

By 1837, the town had bought 12 acres of land between Central and South Bow Streets for another cemetery, but the location was not meeting the approval of the townsfolk because it was close to the railroad tracks. So, in 1847, a plan was made to move the location and the remains of those already buried there to a place that would later become the Claffin Street School. Cemetery Street (off Depot Street) was created at that time.

Vernon Grove Cemetery came into being in 1859. It was 21 acres and the remains of those buried at the Spruce Street location were moved. Most of the slate stones that are in that cemetery are memorials of the early settlers. Also, there is the monument to the Grand Army of the Republic, which was made of Ohio granite and established on Memorial Day 1872. In Adin Ballou's History of Milford, published in 1882, he says, about Vernon Grove,



An unidentified grave/cross, most likely made by someone working at the Draper Corporation Factory. Photo courtesy of Milford Historical Commission

that the tombstones "exhibit to the beholder a very respectable array of mortuary taste and elegance, in accordance with the modern popular style."

In 1841, some people from Milford and other area towns founded the Pine Grove Cemetery (across from present day Wendy's). A governor from Milford, William Claffin, is buried there in a vault chapel, created from Milford pink granite, located near the Cedar Street entrance.

In 1847, a graveyard was established in the North Purchase area. It's a place where Memorial Day exercises are still conducted. It is here that one could find an unusual flat stone bear-

ing only the names "Gramma" and "Grampa." There is no headstone to give us any other information about them.

St. Mary's Cemetery, located on Cedar Street across from what is now Plains Park, is home of the Irish Round Tower, a beautiful structure designed after the original one in Ireland. Near the base of the tower is a memorial for a number of priests, which is done in bronze set into Milford pink granite.

If you want to see art, you need not go to an art museum far away, just come to the cemetery and walk around. I do this often. There are even some small memorials made from iron, most likely by those who

worked at the Draper Corporation. There is also a section where children are interred, which always makes me a bit sad. There are so many gorgeous stones here, in a variety of styles and forms. Some were even carved by those who would be buried there, like that of Charles Carroll and his wife. This Celtic cross is ten feet high and four feet wide and weighs two tons, hand carved by Mr. Carroll. I can't help but wonder what he was thinking about as he carved his own memorial. And the stone wall, which runs the entire front of the cemetery,



The Irish Round Tower in St. Mary's Cemetery. Nearby is a memorial, for a number of priests, done in bronze and set into Milford pink granite. Photo courtesy of Milford Historical Commission

GRAVEYARDS
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September is library card sign-up month

By Harmony Birch
Library Director

This month, Milford Town Library invites you to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month and discover how a library card can hit all the right notes, no matter what your tastes are.

With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free programs, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

For this month only, Charlie's Market, at 36 School Street, is offering 10 percent off when customers show their library card. Lottery tickets, alcohol,

and cigarettes are excluded from this offer.

An initiative of the American Library Association, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September since 1987 to mark the beginning of the school year, combat illiteracy, and encourage communities everywhere to explore all the offerings that having a library card unlocks. Today, thousands of public libraries and schools nationwide participate in the month-long celebration each fall.

This year's theme, "A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes," is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're checking out a classic story or trying

something new, finding harmony at the library's programs, finding your focus in a study room or vibing out in a cozy nook, or composing your future with new skills, there's a seat in the front row at the library for you, and your library card is the ticket.

At Milford Town Library, you'll find:

- On demand music, ebooks and audiobooks, language learning programs like Mango Languages and Transparent Languages, Comics and more
- We offer free hot spots, a Library of Things, and passes to our state parks and museums
- Programs and events for all ages—from storytimes and book clubs to author talks and

art receptions

Getting a library card is free, easy, and empowering. For students, it's a key to academic success. For adults, it's a gateway to lifelong learning. For everyone, it's a smart way to stay connected to your community.

Join us throughout September for special activities, including:

- Milford Town Library Adult Book Club, Love reading and discussing books with others? Come join us at the Milford Town Library Adult Book Club! Designed for readers 18 and older, our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Titles are provided in various formats (e.g. large print and audio) when available.

The library will have copies of the book on hand prior to the scheduled date of the discussion for you to borrow. (Thursday, Sept. 19, 7-8 p.m.)

- National Comic Book Day: BYOBook Club. Celebrate National Comic Book Day with a free book discussion. No reading required. Share the book that helped you fall in love with comics. Tell us about your favorite tropes and art styles. When you're done, enjoy some cafe snacks from TJ's Cafe. This event is for ages 14+. (Thursday, Sept. 24, 5-7 p.m.)

This September, B sharp and sign up for a library card. Stop by Milford Town Library to sign up for your card today.

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Mendon apprehends erratic driver who exceeded 140 mph

By Theresa Knapp

On Aug. 18, a 27-year-old Hopedale male was arrested and charged with OUI-Liquor or .08%, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, A&B On a Police Officer, and Disorderly Conduct."

The following was posted by the Hopedale Police Department on Facebook on Aug. 18, noting "all suspects are innocent until proven guilty."

"On Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026, at approximately 0116 hours, Hopedale Dispatch received an E911 transfer from Milford Police reporting an erratic operator traveling on South Main Street toward Hopedale.

"The vehicle, described as a black BMW SUV, was reportedly observed traveling in excess of 140 MPH on Route 495. The vehicle was also reported to have been speeding and committing

marked-lane violations on Routes 16 and 140. The three reporting parties stated that an argument had occurred inside the vehicle and that the operator appeared highly intoxicated. Following the argument, the operator stopped and dropped all three parties off on the side of the roadway before leaving the area.

"The registration for the BMW returned to an address in Mendon. Hopedale and Men-

don officers canvassed the surrounding area in an attempt to locate the vehicle and identify the operator.

"Mendon officers subsequently responded to the registered owner's residence and observed the black MBW SUV parked in the driveway. Shortly thereafter, a silver Nissan was observed leav-

ERRATIC DRIVER

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Five questions that could change how you see retirement



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement

isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters. Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire?
The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½. For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering

retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better. A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement?
Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother. It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree?
Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost?
It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back?
Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating

to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan. Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals. Mark Freeman, CEPA, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, 77 West Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 508-293-4017, Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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ERRATIC DRIVER

continued from page 4

ing the driveway. A Mendon officer pulled alongside the Nissan and asked the operator if he was aware of the incident that had occurred in Milford. The operator stated that he was the opera-

tor of the BMW involved in the incident and that he had just returned the BMW before taking his Nissan out for a drive. "While speaking with the operator, the Mendon officer detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from his facial area. Officer Kokansky and

Officer Kulesza arrived shortly thereafter to assist. "When officers required that the operator exit the vehicle, he became increasingly loud and aggressive. The operator refused to participate in the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and was subsequently taken into custody.

"During the booking process at the Hopedale Police Department, the operator became increasingly aggressive. He repeatedly threw himself onto the floor and appeared to feign a medical emergency. Hopedale Fire Department was requested as a precaution

to evaluate the operator. "During the medical evaluation, the operator spit, striking one of the officers. "The operator was subsequently held on \$2,000 cash bail and was arraigned in Milford District Court." *Source: Facebook @hopedalepolicedept*

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Happenings

Events happening in and around the area

The following is a sampling of events happening in the area. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Please confirm details before you head to an event.

Sept. 11

6 p.m. – Milford Youth Center 16th annual fundraiser, CraftRoots Brewing, 4 Industrial Rd., Milford. For more information, contact jward@townofmilford.com.

Sept. 12

12 – 4 p.m. – Farm Fest, Medway Community Farm. www.MedwayCommunity-Farm.org.

Sept. 19

8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Electronics Recycling Day, First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford. Cash payments only. Questions: 508-473-5259.

Sept. 19

10 a.m. Hopedale Day in the Park, Hopedale Community House. Rain date: Sept. 20. For more info, visit <https://hopedale-ma.gov/1241/Hopedale-Cultural-Council>. The art show will be in the Draper Gym.

Sept. 25 - Nov. 1

Times vary. The Great Jack-O'-Lantern Journey, Southwick's Zoo, Mendon. www.southwickszoo.com.

Sept. 26

8 a.m. – Medway town-wide yard sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
9 a.m. – Upton Heritage Day, Upton Town Common. Vendors, crafters, entertainers, etc., can contact uptonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com or 508-529-6600.

Sept. 26

9 a.m. – Upton Town Library Book Sale, through 2 p.m., including \$5 bag sale. Benefits museum pass and summer reading programs. www.uptonlibrary.org.

Sept. 26

10 a.m. – Coffee and Conversations, Millis Public Library. Topics range, conversations are moderated to focus less on debate and more on understanding. All political perspectives welcome and respected. Will also meet on Oct. 24, Nov. 21.

Sept. 26

10 a.m. - Holiday Vendor Fair, Community House, 8 Court St., Uxbridge (behind Town Common). Tables available by contacting dataless1@yahoo.com 508-244-7849.

Sept. 26 – Oct. 31

Times vary. Pumpkin Patch, St. John's Church, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin. www.stjohnsfranklinma.org.

Oct. 4.

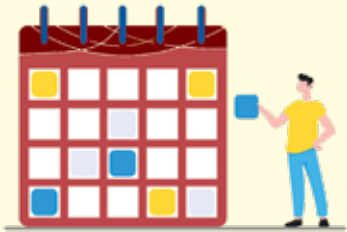
2 p.m. – “A Proper Fit,” a book talk about the corset industry, Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St. Sponsored by Mendon Historical Society.

Oct. 17

10 a.m. – Upton Revolutionary War Encampment immersive event, Upton History Museum Grounds, 2 Main St. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 30

6 p.m. – Milford Youth Center ‘Night of Horror Classics,’ 24 Pearl St., Milford. www.milfordyouthcenter.org.



Have an event?
If you have an event you'd like listed in the calendar, send it to editor@milfordfreepress.com

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GRAVEYARDS

continued from page 3

was built by Patrick Ferguson. I would guess he was buried there, but I'll be looking for that when I'm walking around.

The newest of the burial places is Sacred Heart Cemetery, established in 1937. At the onset, it mostly served as an eternal resting place for the Italian-Americans in Milford. Its beautiful hand-hewn stone entryway arch was designed by Medway Monument Company and built by Consigli Construction; the stone cross at the top was placed there by Albert Consigli. If you follow that road in, you will come to a lovely outside chapel area, which is partially enclosed and includes the stations of the cross and a fantastic marble table with a magnificent crucifix behind it. In 1975, the Stigmatine priests requested that an area be reserved for them; it is located at the far left of the property. As with St. Mary's Cemetery, Sacred Heart also has many beautiful carvings on the stones there, many accomplished by local craftsmen.

So, as that spooky holiday approaches, it makes for a perfect time to take time to appreciate the lovely cemeteries we have in town. So peaceful and serene

Hopedale was part of Milford, Spiritualism movement

Since Halloween is just around the corner, I'll leave the cemeteries for a moment to mention this: Just as Milford was originally part of Mendon, Hopedale was originally part of Milford. And the little town of Hopedale took part in a pretty big way in the Spiritualism movement that swept the country beginning in 1848 when two sisters, Maggie and Kate Fox from New York, claimed to communicate with spirit through rapping noises.

Around 1850, there started a squall of spiritual activity in Hopedale. Seances and spiritual healing events were held regularly; some claimed to have experienced spirit manifestations. Famous people connected to the occult were in town.

and pretty. It's a perfect tribute to all those who came before us, who walked on the land of this town, and all who contributed to what we know as the town of Milford.

And don't forget to come and check out the Museum at Memorial Hall. We are now, in addition to Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4, also open on the first Sunday of the month, beginning in October (those same hours). You'll be amazed at all you will see and experience there. And, if you have an interest in the history of our town, we are looking for associate members to come on board and help promote our wonderful heritage and museum.

For more information, visit www.milfordma.gov/293/Historical-Commission.



A grave marker for "Gramma Powers" can be found in a North Purchase cemetery. There is no headstone nearby to provide additional information.

Photo courtesy of Milford Historical Commission

Garden Club presents rose program on Sept. 21

On Mon., Sept. 21, the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford, Inc. will feature Mike and Angelina Chute of Rose Solutions at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., Milford.

Their presentation will explore the remarkable life and legacy of renowned English rosarian David Austin, whose vision transformed modern rose breeding by combining the charm, fragrance, and form of old garden roses with the repeat blooming qualities and vigor of modern varieties. This program promises to offer valuable insights, practical knowledge and a deeper appreciation for one of the world's most celebrated rose breeders.

Following the presentation, Mike and Angelina will answer questions, and will have copies of their books *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening*, and *Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Pas-*

sionate Gardeners available for purchase.

The meeting is open to the public and will start at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments. The program will begin at 7 p.m. There is a donation of \$5 for non-members. If you join the club, the fee will be applied to the \$30 annual membership fee.

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 is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Greenleaf Garden Club and the programs and activities we offer throughout the year.

The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. and the Worcester County Horticultural Society. For additional information please contact greenleaf-gardenclub@gmail.com.

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A new treatment option for dry macular degeneration

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

For decades, telling a patient they had dry macular degeneration meant delivering some of the most difficult news in eye care. I would sit across from patients worried about losing their ability to read, drive, or enjoy time with family, and explain that we had very few treatment options.

The advice was always the same: take appropriate vitamins, don't smoke, maintain a healthy lifestyle, monitor your vision, and come in for regular exams. Beyond that, our approach was largely one of careful observation. We were managing the disease as best we could, but we had little to offer in terms of active treatment.

Today, that paradigm is changing.

A new option for dry AMD

Dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common form of macular degeneration, affecting millions of

Americans. Unlike wet AMD, for which effective injectable treatments have been available for nearly two decades, patients with earlier stages of dry AMD historically had no treatment specifically designed to address the disease itself. While the AREDS2 vitamin formulation can reduce the risk of progression in certain patients, active treatment options remained severely limited.

However, in November 2024, the FDA authorized the Valeda[®] Light Delivery System for the treatment of dry AMD. Valeda utilizes a technology called **photobiomodulation (PBM)**, offering a noninvasive approach for appropriately selected patients with intermediate dry AMD before the development of advanced geographic atrophy.

What is photobiomodulation?

While light-based therapies have been used for years in other medical fields for wound healing and inflammation, its

application in ophthalmology is a major milestone.

PBM uses carefully controlled wavelengths of red and near-infrared light delivered to the retina during a series of brief, painless office treatments. The light is absorbed by mitochondria—the energy-producing structures within cells. Researchers believe this process supports cellular metabolism while reducing the oxidative stress and inflammation that drive the progression of macular degeneration.

The standard treatment protocol consists of nine short sessions performed over approximately three to five weeks. Based on clinical trials, additional treatment series may be recommended periodically.

What does the research show?

The LIGHTSITE III clinical trial evaluated photobiomodulation in patients with intermediate dry AMD over two years. The results were highly



encouraging:

- **Improved vision:** Patients receiving PBM experienced an average improvement in visual acuity compared to those who received a sham treatment.
- **Measurable gains:** More than

60% of treated eyes gained at least five letters on the standard ETDRS visual acuity chart.

EYE

continued on page 9

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EYE

continued from page 8

- **Slower progression:** The study suggested that treated patients may experience lower rates of progression to advanced geographic atrophy.
 - **Safety:** The treatment was well tolerated with no significant safety concerns identified.
- A note of caution:** Photobiomodulation is not a cure, and it does not guarantee improved vision for every patient. As an ophthalmologist, I believe in balancing optimism with reality. Patients deserve accurate information and realistic expectations, not exaggerated promises.

Who is a candidate?

Patient selection is critical. Current evidence and FDA authorization focus specifically on patients with **intermediate dry AMD**. Determining whether this treatment is appropriate requires a comprehensive eye examination, detailed retinal imaging, and an individualized evaluation by an ophthalmologist or retina specialist.

What this means for you

If you were told years ago that there was "nothing to do"

for your dry AMD, it is time to have another conversation with your eye doctor. PBM does not replace the fundamentals of care—patients must still take vitamins, avoid smoking, and undergo regular monitoring—but it offers a powerful new tool in our arsenal.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are proud to be the fourth center in Massachusetts—and the only one in our local area—to offer photobiomodulation therapy with the Valeda system through our Franklin office.

We are also proud to provide comprehensive, on-site retina specialty care through Dr. Alyse Richard, a highly trained retina specialist dedicated to advanced, patient-centered care for complex retinal conditions.

After many years of simply monitoring dry AMD, I am grateful we finally have more to offer. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, contact Milford Franklin Eye Center today to schedule a comprehensive retinal evaluation.

For more details, see our ad on page 8.

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BVT receives \$880k grant to expand workforce training

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District has received an \$880,000 Career Technical Initiative (CTI) grant to train 84 adults for careers in high-demand skilled trades through the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (BVTi).

The Round 11 grant, announced Aug. 10 by Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones during an event at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, is part of \$15.5 million in CTI grants awarded to 24 organizations across the Commonwealth.

The CTI program enables Massachusetts vocational technical high schools to use classrooms, labs, and equipment in the evenings and on weekends to provide workforce training outside the traditional school day. Through partnerships with employers, workforce boards, community organizations and

educational institutions, CTI helps prepare participants for in-demand occupations.

The Round 11 funding will support training in carpentry, automotive collision, automotive technology, culinary arts, electrical, HVAC, plumbing and advanced manufacturing. The programs are designed to address regional workforce needs and provide adult learners with opportunities to gain industry-recognized skills and credentials.

Through BVTi, the District will continue to expand its adult education programs. Fall courses include advanced manufacturing, electrical, HVAC, and welding. Spring courses will include auto body, automotive technology, construction, culinary arts, and plumbing.

"We're proud to expand access to career technical education at BVT," said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. "This grant

will allow BVTi to deliver high-quality career technical education to adults seeking to upskill or retrain, strengthen the regional workforce by preparing skilled employees for in-demand careers, and generate revenue that supports our students and programs."

For more information about adult education at BVT, visit the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute at www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/bvti or www.bvtadulthood.org.

About the grant: This grant is funded by the Career Technical Initiative through state appropriations and funds appropriated through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This grant initiative is administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and the Workforce Skills Cabinet.

Submitted by Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

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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

Business spotlight

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 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!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and Dumpster Rental and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at 774-287-1133 or visit us online at AffordableJunkRemoval.com.

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Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

80 Spruce Street, Milford • 508-473-2145 • MilfordTownLibrary.org • HOURS: Mon. – Thurs. 9-9 • Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 9-5 • Sun. CLOSED

Saturday Hours Return. The library will be open on Saturdays once again, starting Sat., Sept. 12. Saturday hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Food Collection Drive. We're calling on your help with a local girl scout Bronze Award project to support the Milford Community Kitchen! Now through the end of September, your donations of beans, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, peas, carrots, mixed vegetables, peaches and fruit cocktail will help the scouts prepare meals with love. Please place your donations in the clear bin located by the Grab and Go table at the library's main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

Adult Summer Reading Recap. Over 70 adults participated in the 2026 Adult Summer Reading Program, Plant a Seed, Read! Our own Kate Kazlauskas, Reference Librarian, designed the Milfordland Garden Path challenge and built a program celebrating local flora, food, and fun. Prize winners will be listed on our social media pages.

Huge thanks to the Friends of the Milford Town Library for sponsoring and to the Greenleaf

Garden Club who brought it to life with Books in Bloom (floral interpretations of beloved book covers), an Ask a Gardner event, and a wildflower arranging workshop.

Ann Briggs: Artist for September. During September, local artist Ann Briggs will exhibit her paintings near the Information Desk. An experienced watercolor artist and former art instructor, Ann's excited to show her latest artwork created using photographs printed on canvas, then enhanced with acrylic paint.

Watercolor Night with Mari Steinmann. Local artist and art instructor Mari Steinmann leads a free watercolor painting evening in this 90-minute workshop, suitable for beginners. The event is for ages 14 or older and sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library. Registration via the library's online events calendar is required. (milfordtownlibrary.org) Though spots fill up quickly, we'll offer a waiting list.

Center Book Group. The Center Book Group will discuss Tom Lake by Ann Patchett on Tues., Sept. 15, at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. Patchett, author

of 30 books, including this year's bestselling The Whistler, brings her generous eye to this affectionate ode to youth, drama, memory, and belonging. Tom Lake isn't a person, but a summer stock theater in Michigan were Lara, a college student, New Hampshire native and a veteran "Emily" from the play Our Town goes as a substitute. It's a defining summer that alters her life's course.

Lara goes on to have three daughters, all of whom return to the family's cherry farm during the COVID pandemic. They prod their mother for details of her life as an actress who dated the dashing, award winning actor Peter Duke. Lara reveals much and conceals much to them, though the reader learns all. Patchett creates multifaceted and believable characters.

To reserve a copy of Tom Lake, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2. Copies can be reserved online or via the Libby app.

Milford Town Library Adult Book Club. The September meeting of the Milford Town Library Adult Book Club is scheduled for Thurs., Sept. 17, 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. September's selection is This is How it Always Is by Laurie Frankel. In this emotionally sensitive and funny novel, a family with five boys, explores the youngest's identification as a girl. What seems a phase at first, reveals itself to be anything but. A Seattle Times review called it "expansive, perceptive, and gracious" with dialogue that is both "witty and deep." Frankel's refreshing and nuanced portrayal of real people makes for entertaining and thought-provoking discussion. 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.

National Comic Book Day: BYOBook. Celebrate National Comic Book Day with a free book discussion on Thurs., Sept. 24, from 5-7 p.m. at TJ's Cafe. Library Director Harmony Birch, a graphic novel and comic book aficionado will host this event. No reading required! Share the book that helped you

fall in love with comics. Tell us about your favorite tropes and art styles. When you're done, enjoy some cafe snacks from TJ's Cafe. This event is for ages 14 and over.

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 Culturalcouncil@townofmilford.com.

Mahjong @ MTL. A Mahjong group meets twice a month at the Milford Town Library. This group welcomes players familiar with

LIBRARY
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FALL PROMO

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DATA CENTER

continued from page 1

if that was ever the case.”

Wilson said it’s important for town officials to get ahead of the verbiage, and draw some lines in the sand.

“I think a perfect example would be that we did a good job allowing hotels, where a neighboring town did not, and we profit very well from those,” he said. “I just want to make sure that we’re not creating a situation where we’re never going to allow data centers in the town.”

Board Member Joe Calagione agreed, referring to a recent article in the opinion section of the Boston Herald titled, “The devil is in the data center details” by Robert Mayo. The article examines the growing debate over the rapid expansion of data centers in the United States and argues that communities need to look beyond the promises of jobs and tax revenue before welcoming these facilities.

Calagione said it seems like the places that are being most deeply impacted, are not asking the right questions. “Places that have approved them, and are running into problems, really didn’t ask the right questions on the front end,” he said.

Calagione said stipulations like water and electrical usage, as well as buffer zones, need to be considered. Making these proposals into special permit designations would provide the town with the time and space to ask the right questions before it’s too late.

Calagione mentioned that newer designs for data centers include closed-loop water systems, where water is cooled and reused internally, as well as their own power supplies, off the local grid.

“We just need to be aware going forward that we need to ask those types of questions if, in fact, they come before us,” he said. “At the end of the day, the tax implications on the town are huge, and the traffic impact for something that big is small.”

Milford first day of school photos



Milford Public Schools first day of school was Aug. 26 (Aug. 31 for kindergarten). Here are some photos from the first day of school.

Photo source: Facebook @milfordmapublic





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Milford Cultural Council grant applications due Oct. 15

The Milford Cultural Council (MCC) is now accepting applications for grants funding community-oriented programming in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Applicants can apply for grants to fund projects and events completed between July 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2027. Applications must be

submitted by Oct. 15.

The MCC will prioritize proposals in the visual arts (including public art and instruction), music, performing arts, the sciences, and youth participation in creative cultural activities. In addition, the council will favor proposals that are well researched and documented, primarily

benefit Milford residents, serve a large portion of the community, recognize Milford's cultural diversity, and do not rely totally on funding from the MCC.

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

"Interest in the Local Cultural Council grant program continues to grow. Last year, the Milford Cultural Council received 44 grant applications and awarded funds to 28 proposals that supported a broad range of community projects and events in Milford. We encourage individuals and groups, especially Milford residents, to submit applications for programming that would contribute to the cultural vitality of our community," states MCC chair Geri Eddins.

Applicants can find grant application tips in English, Spanish, and Portuguese on the MCC page on the town website at: MilfordMa.gov/309/Cultural-Council. In addition,

the council is planning question and answer sessions at the Milford Town Library. The dates for these events will be announced soon. In the meantime, questions can be emailed to the council at CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com.

The last day to submit applications is Thurs., Oct. 15, 2026. The members of the MCC will review all applications and inform applicants of the council's decisions at the end of December. Approved grant recipients can expect to receive their full grant payment in February of 2027 once the funds have been received from the state council and the grantees have completed their paperwork.

The MCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities

every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

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

Comments and requests for information can be emailed to the council at CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com. Learn more online at: MilfordMA.gov/309/Cultural-Council.

Volunteers needed for MYC 2026 'Friday Fright Night'

The Spooky Season will be here before we know it and you know what that means, Friday Fright Night is right around the corner! The Milford Youth Center is excited to bring this community favorite back, but needs volunteers and donations to make the event a success.

This community event will be held on Fri., Oct. 30, from 6-9 p.m. at MYC. This event directly supports all our after-school activities for the 10 month after-school program that we run at the Center. Volunteer positions include:

The Kids Zone: We will need

volunteers to run games, face paint, help at Craft tables, and more!

MYC Presents A night of Horror Classics: We will need volunteers to set up and build and break down the haunted MYC, dress up and be in the haunted MYC, scare our visitors and more!

To volunteer, visit <https://bit.ly/MYCfrightNightVolunteers2026>. To donate, or any other questions, contact Program Coordinator Joanna Abrantes at jabrantes@milfordma.gov or call 508-473-1756.

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Annual fundraiser to benefit Milford Youth Center

On Sept. 11 from 6-9 p.m., the Milford Youth Center will hold its 16th Annual Fundraiser and Fall Appreciation Event at CraftRoots Brewing, 4 Industrial Rd., Milford.

The event will include 2026 community awards (for Barbell 88 and longtime volunteer Brian Bell), music from the Pub Kings, more than \$7,500 worth of raffle items, and appetizers and desserts.

Tickets are \$30 each and are available at www.milfordyouthcenter.org/donate, at the door, or by emailing jward@townofmilford.com.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, free admission will be extended to all first responders and all servicemen and women (active, reserve, retired, or veterans).

While the Town of Milford pays the salaries of three full-time staff members, utilities and maintenance expenses, the MYC relies on fundraising to pay for all other expenses including additional staff and programming, amounting to over \$75,000 per year.

For more information, call 508-473-1756.

Milford Museum Sunday hours start Oct. 4

Starting in October, the Milford Historical Commission's Museum at Memorial Hall (30 School St.) will be open the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. These hours are in addition to the museum's regular hours of Thursdays from 1-4 p.m.

UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional to offer free webinar series focusing on senior mental health

Series will focus on hoarding and social isolation as well as having difficult conversations with senior loved ones

UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional Medical Center's Community Benefits Committee is offering a free community webinar series focusing on senior mental health.

This two-part series is presented as part of Milford Regional's "Opening Doors to Mental Health" community webinars and will feature board-certified Geropsychologist Kelly O'Malley, PhD, ABPP, FGSA, and UMMH - Milford Regional Manager of Behavioral Health and Addiction Services Lisa Shaw, MSN, PMHNP-BC. UMMH - Milford Regional Chief Operating Officer Bert Thurlo-Walsh, MM, RN, CPHQ, will moderate.

The first webinar, "Mental Health Causes and Effects of Social Isolation and Hoarding Disorder," will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about hoarding disorder in older adults and discover practical ways to reduce social isolation, how to talk with an older adult about their social needs and ways to help them engage in social activities.

The second webinar, "Ways to Approach Difficult/Sensitive Topics With Older Adult Family Members," will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will discover ways to avoid unproductive conversations and learn practical approaches for effective communication.

Both webinars will include dedicated time for participants' questions as well as information

on available resources.

"Mental health is an essential part of overall health at every stage of life, yet many older adults face challenges such as social isolation, anxiety, depression and difficulty navigating important life conversations," said Milford Regional COO Bert Thurlo-Walsh. "Through this webinar series, we hope to provide caregivers and family members with practical tools, expert guidance and access to resources that can help improve their loved one's well-being."

To register, visit ummhealth.org/milford-regional, scroll toward the bottom of the homepage and go to "View All Events." For questions, contact UMMH – Milford Regional Community Benefits Manager Michelle Sanford at 508-422-2827 or Michelle.sanford@umassmemorial.org.



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The Milford Free Press is currently seeking freelance writers who live in the area and are interested in writing for our publication. If interested, please email editor@milfordfreepress.com

Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
08/25/2026	23 Country Club Ln. #A	\$435,000
08/24/2026	6 Tina Rd.	\$790,000
08/24/2026	17 N. Vine St.	\$640,900
08/21/2026	38 Pleasant St.	\$440,000
08/20/2026	16 Jionzo Rd.	\$575,000
08/20/2026	15 Carp Rd.	\$710,000
08/18/2026	56 High St. #A	\$425,000
08/17/2026	4 Cormier Cir.	\$705,000
08/14/2026	44 W. Walnut St. #B	\$345,000
08/14/2026	10 Deluca Rd.	\$505,000
08/14/2026	37 Mark Dr.	\$615,000
08/14/2026	6 Berkley Rd.	\$625,000
08/13/2026	39 Village Cir.	\$590,000
08/07/2026	16 Shadowbrook Ln. #14	\$299,900
08/06/2026	12 Sunset Dr.	\$505,000
08/05/2026	14 S. High St.	\$435,000
08/03/2026	37 Jillson Cir.	\$580,000
08/03/2026	126 W. Spruce St.	\$625,000
07/30/2026	146 Purchase St.	\$465,000
07/30/2026	5 Governors Way #B	\$490,000
07/27/2026	20 Cedarview Cir.	\$625,000

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



The 3-bed, 1-bath, 1,586-square-foot house at 146 Purchase Street in Milford recently sold for \$465,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Milford Family & Community Network (MFCN) CFCE offers free playgroups

The MFCN CFCE would like to thank everyone who participated in their Summer Drop-In Playgroups during July and August. They saw many familiar faces and met a few new families, too!

Fall playgroup registration has begun. If you did not register for this program, for children ages birth to 5 years old with a parent/caregiver, there is still time to call and check if we have availability. The free playgroups will start during the week of Sept. 21. If all groups are full, you will be added to the waitlist, which will provide you the opportunity to come in as a guest when there is an absence.

For more information call 508-277-4981, email family-network@milfordma.com, or visit milfordpublicschools.com/milfordfcn or Facebook/Milford Family and Community Network CFCE.

Thanks To Yanks partners with Doubletree Milford

Thanks To Yanks, a local non-profit charity, recently teamed up with The Doubletree Hotel Milford in the collection of items in support of military families, including veterans and those deployed. In addition, a generous financial donation was made. Pictured (L to R): Randi Clark of the Doubletree and Mike Shain, founder and president of Thanks To Yanks. Shain said, "We are thrilled and honored to partner with caring local businesses like the Double-



tree." For more information, visit (and like) "thankstoyanks" on Facebook. Submitted by Thanks to Yanks





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🕒 **Wed., Sept. 23, 2026**
6 to 8 pm

📍 **Milford Town Library**
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Pets of the month: Hope and Snow, a found family story

Hope and Snow have chosen each other and now we are waiting for a family to choose them! These girls were surrendered to Milford Humane Society around the same time last year. They lived in separate rooms for the first six months they were with us, only meeting a few months ago when Snow was moved into our Main Room.

Hope was in our Main Room from the beginning. The pretty green eyes under her black masquerade mask showed us just how scared Hope was. She spent her time hiding in her bed and giving a little hiss when we came near. Our volunteers didn't give up on her and Hope, quite literally, slowly began to move forward. She started spending more time at the front of her cage eventually allowing petting and brushing. Then one day she decided it was time to go out and explore.

She interacted with the other cats but hadn't made a friend. Snow is a long-haired black and white tuxedo cat with a perpetually surprised look on her face, that showed exactly how she felt about shelter life. Despite our best efforts, she resisted interacting with the volunteers. Snow wasn't difficult, she just didn't want our attention. We decided it was time to move her to the Main Room in the hope that more exposure to people and cats would bring her out of her shell. As luck would have it, Snow was moved right next to Hope. As soon as we opened Snow's door to allow her to explore, she hopped right into Hope's cage.



Hope and Snow are ready for adoption. Photo source: Milford Humane Society

It didn't take long for Hope to admit that she'd found her new best friend. Hope and Snow's new goal is to expand their found family. Do you want to be part of their family tree? For information on meeting Hope and Snow, or the other cats at the Milford Humane Society, please visit <https://www.milfordhumane.org/>

BVT's school lunch, breakfast programs policy

Families encouraged to check eligibility chart, submit application

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) is pleased to continue offering students one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day, thanks to permanent funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While meals are provided at no cost, families are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application on the school website. Doing so helps expand other educational and nutrition initiatives across the district and supports funding for these programs in future years.

You do not need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits if you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible through the direct certification process. Families who qualify for free or reduced-price meals may also become

eligible for SUN Bucks, a program that provides grocery assistance during the summer months when school is not in session. Eligible families may also qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides monthly financial assistance for groceries. If you are not currently receiving SNAP benefits but think you may be eligible, contact Project Bread's Food-Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or apply online through DTA Connect. To determine whether your household qualifies for free or reduced-price meal benefits, visit the school website to view the current federal income eligibility chart, find answers to frequently asked questions, and complete an online application at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmealsfaq. Submitted by BVT

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Milford School news

Important Dates:
Sept. 16 - Woodland Back-to-School Night
Sept. 17 - Memorial Back-to-School Night
Sept. 21 - No School - Yom Kippur
Sept. 22 - Brookside Back-to-School Night
Sept. 23 - MHS Back-to-School Night
Oct. 6 - Early Dismissal (see District News for more details); No school at Shining Star
Oct. 12 - No School - Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day

District News:
Early Release Day 2026-2027: This year, the Milford Public Schools are changing the way we do Early Dismissal days. Instead of dismissing kids before lunch on Fridays as we have done for the past several years, our Early Dismissal days will be on designated Tuesdays and kids' will head home after lunch. Our first Early Dismissal will be Tuesday, Oct. 6. See below for the times:
Milford High School: 12:50 p.m.
Stacy Middle School: 12:50 p.m.
Woodland Elementary School: 1:20 p.m.
Memorial Elementary School: 1:30 p.m.
Brookside Elementary School: 1:30 p.m.
Shining Star Early Childhood Center:
No school.
We want to thank our custodial staff and maintenance team for all of their hard work this summer cleaning, repairing, and improving our buildings. There were many great projects happening across the District. Just a

few highlights include:

- Painting of classrooms and hallways at Stacy Middle School
- New flooring and painting of many classrooms at Memorial Elementary School
- Refinished Gym floors at Milford High School and Stacy Middle School
- Roofing repairs at Brookside Elementary School

Additionally, lots of smaller improvements and refreshed facilities can be found at every building. Our custodial team has been incredibly busy all summer in preparation for our staff and students. Our hallways and classrooms were sparkling and ready for the new school year.

The Milford Public Schools Music Department is gearing up for a wonderful year! A big welcome to our new music teacher, Ms. Emily Frye, who is teaching at Memorial Elementary School and at our new music program at Shining Star Preschool!

Woodland Elementary School
Woodland Elementary School would like to recognize the efforts of their two amazing Administrative Assistants, Ms. Renatha Placido and Ms. Marina Perreira. They continue to do an amazing job supporting families, faculty, and staff returning for the school year. The Main Office is incredibly busy during the first few days of the school year, and their efforts have been invaluable!

LIBRARY
continued from page 11

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? Please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2. Mahjong September/October meetings: Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27.

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 September/October meetings: Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 19.

Community Puzzle Swap.

We're hosting a Fall Swap to refresh your jigsaw puzzle stash! Puzzles will be available on Sat., Sept. 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on our display table by the main entrance. Take one or more puzzles home and leave a puzzle or puzzles if you want! (These are not part of the library's collection and are FREE to take home - they do not need to be checked out.) If you enjoy working on puzzles, please also consider participating in our Community Puzzles in the Non-Fiction area of the library! (Note, this is a quiet area; group

puzzle work is welcome, but please be considerate of others who are studying/working.)

Ongoing:
The Friends Bookstore and Book Table are replenished weekly. Find your next summer read at bargain prices.
Community Puzzles—we always have a puzzle or two 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.

Virtual Alzheimer's support group to meet Oct. 13

Hearts, Hugs & Hope, a virtual Alzheimer's support group sponsored by Cornerstone at Milford, will meet this month on Zoom. The virtual meeting will be held on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

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.

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Director of Compass Programming Jenn Hozempa at jhozempa@cornerstonemilford.com.

This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month and is sponsored by Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch Street, Milford.



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SPORTS

High hopes for Milford Volleyball in '26

Scarlet Hawks blend athleticism, youth, veterans

By Chris Villani

Milford High volleyball coach Tammy Webber always has high hopes heading into a new season. But this year in particular, her team may have the pieces in place to turn those hopes into a reality.

“I think this is the beginning of coming back for us,” Webber said. “This freshman class is special. The core of seniors and other juniors we have returning are strong. We are athletic. It’s going to be good.”

Webber’s hardest job might be figuring out which six players are going to be on the floor. Milford boasts an 18-player roster and more depth at setter and on defense than it has had in recent memory.

“We have people battling for positions,” the coach said. “There is a good pool of talent.”

Returning senior captain

Abby Murphy started at middle hitter last year and will be back in that position again.

“She brings offense and a big block for us,” Webber said.

Senior Lilah Driscoll, another captain, may end up as a defensive specialist. Webber said her defensive prowess alone is enough to keep her on the floor.

Milford has four setters on the roster this fall, including senior Lina Lyubkin.

“That position has been lean for a few years,” Webber said. “Lina should be on the floor just because of her maturity and leadership. She does a good job getting to the ball, and putting up a hittable ball.”

Freshman Gigi Rodrigues, sophomore Alayah Rodrigues, and junior Gabby Nosek are three more strong setters for MHS.

At outside hitter, the Scarlet Hawks have returner Fiona

Lentini, along with junior Maya Charczenko. Brooke Stokes is in line to be the team’s libero. Junior Lauren Williams brings experience to the middle hitter spot, and sophomore Emma Vazquez will see time at outsider hitter. Adding depth for MHS are Mel Purtell, Ariana Estrada, Mia Rivera, Kaia Demers, and Vicki Powers, along with freshmen Brooke Cunningham and Maddie Stokes (Brook’s younger sister) who may float between varsity and JV.

Milford’s depth has Webber thinking her team can finish in the top half of the ultra-competitive Hockomock League. Qualifying for the tournament, she said, is an expectation.

“With the youth that we have, and their work ethic, we can only get better,” Webber said. “I think we will surprise some people.”



Lauren Williams (#10) returns as one of Milford’s middle hitters this fall. Photo credit Olga Lyubkin



Brooke Stokes (#1) is slated to be the team’s libero this season. Photo credit Olga Lyubkin

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SPORTS

Young MHS field hockey squad ready for new year

Scarlet Hawks look to learn on field this fall

By Chris Villani

The Milford High field hockey team hits the turf this season with a revamped roster that will be led by four key returning players.

“We lost a lot of girls from last year, and there are a lot of girls who came out for the team this year who are new to the sport,” said Head Coach Jenna Casello. “So we have been going through a lot of the fundamentals and filling in the blanks.”

After an opening week of drills and teaching, the Scarlet Hawks spent time piecing things together in the lead up to the first games of the season. The middle of the field is particularly solid, as it features MHS’ veteran players that Casello called “the core of the team.”

Iyanna Correa is back as center forward and brings significant speed to her position.

“She has a good sense of the forward line and, if she has a breakaway, she is going for the goal no matter what,” Casello said.

Behind Correa in the midfield will be Isabella Sullivan and Francesca Veo, both of whom drew high praise from their coach.

“They are two really skilled players who are good at working

the ball up the field,” Casello said. “They also have a lot of skill when it comes to getting the ball up into the circle, and that will be their main job.”

Jadyn DeTore returns on the defensive side. Casello praised her composure and her ability to handle an attack from the opposition. DeTore also learned from veteran players who graduated last year, and is looking to follow in their footsteps as one of the program’s leaders.

Heading into the season with a relatively inexperienced crew, Casello said slowing things down will be important early on. She also wants her players to be unafraid to ask for help.

“With this newer group of girls, sometimes it takes a little bit of time for them to understand and buy into what I am saying,” Casello said. “I think it’s going to be important for them to ask for help and make sure they understand what we are doing and why it is important.”

Casello is hoping that, by asking questions, her players can develop a deeper understanding of the game.

“I think understanding the ‘why’ and putting the pieces together are going to be really big for us,” she said.



Iyanna Correa brings speed to her position as Milford gets ready for a new season. Courtesy photo



Francesca Veo is part of a strong midfield for the MHS field hockey team. Courtesy photo

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2024 CHEVY TRAX SUV  AS LOW AS \$74/WK #TP8464 • LS TRIM, 17" ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977	2024 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4  AS LOW AS \$152/WK #ST1181A • SR5, ALLOYS, 3.4L NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$42,977	2024 JEEP COMPASS 4x4  AS LOW AS \$78/WK #D16358 • LATITUDE TRIM, ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,677	2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL  AS LOW AS \$81/WK #TFL1632A • 24/29 CITY/HWY MPG NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$36,750 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977	2025 TOYOTA COROLLA LE  AS LOW AS \$81/WK #25P6322 • 32/41 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$26,569 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,677	2024 SUBARU CROSSTREK  AS LOW AS \$85/WK #TRA4405A • 17" ALLOYS, CPO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977
2023 FORD EDGE SEL  AS LOW AS \$89/WK #P19199 • NAV, 18" ALLOYS, AWD NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$40,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977	2023 GMC TERRAIN SLE  AS LOW AS \$89/WK #49012 • AWD, ALLOYS, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,195 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977	2022 LINCOLN CORSAIR  AS LOW AS \$103/WK #P19249 • SUNROOF, LEATHER NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$46,645 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$28,977	2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4  AS LOW AS \$138/WK #P19192A • CPO, BIG BEND TRIM NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$46,995 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$38,377	2024 SUBARU OUTBACK  AS LOW AS \$92/WK #24A5907 • CPO, PREMIUM TRIM NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,695 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977	2025 MERCEDES GLA 250 SUV  AS LOW AS \$117/WK #TP7036 • 2.0L TURBO, LEATHER NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,800 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977
2023 CHEVY COLORADO  AS LOW AS \$132/WK #C48652 • TURBO, 4X4, NAV NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$44,290 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$36,977	2026 HONDA CIVIC SPORT  AS LOW AS \$99/WK #P19121 • 31/39 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,190 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$27,977	2025 BUICK ENCORE AWD  AS LOW AS \$89/WK #48900 • GX PREFERRED, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,225 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977	2023 MAZDA CX-5 2.5 S  AS LOW AS \$103/WK #TP7142 • AWD, HEATED SEATS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,895 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$28,677	2025 BMW X1 xDrive28i  AS LOW AS \$117/WK #48834 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977	2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN  AS LOW AS \$135/WK #TP7020 • 4X4, V6, 20" ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,677
2024 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER  AS LOW AS \$135/WK #TP6877A • XLE TRIM, SUNROOF NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,775 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977					

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Mike Penner
Sr. Vice President

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