

localtownpages Hopedale

Vol. 13 No. 6

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

October 1, 2026

School year off to good start

Back-to-school is always a special time of year in Hopedale. While the first day of school marks the official start of a new year, the excitement and preparation begin well before students walk through the doors. Across Hopedale Public Schools, administrators, educators, staff, and student leaders collaborated to create welcoming



Hopedale Class of 2027 kicking off their first day of senior year with a "run through." Photo courtesy of Hopedale Public Schools

SCHOOL YEAR

continued on page 3

Police Chief Giovannella 'final call' was Sept. 10

By THERESA KNAPP

Former Hopedale Police Chief Mark A. Giovannella answered his final call with the Hopedale Police Department on Sept. 10, 2026, before officially retiring from his post.

According to an HPD Facebook post, "What Chief Giovannella didn't know was that there was one more special surprise waiting for him. On the other end of that final call was former Head Dispatcher Lisa Collins, who recently retired after an incredible 26 years with the Town of Hopedale.

"Lisa and Chief Giovannella worked side-by-side sharing countless calls, long shifts, dif-



(L to R) Retired Hopedale Police Chief Mark Giovannella stands with his successor, current Hopedale Police Chief Ricardo Lima. Chief Giovannella's final call was Sept. 10. This plaque reads, "The Town of Hopedale would like to thank you for your 33 years of service to the residents of the Town of Hopedale."

GIOVANELLA

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Memorial’s ‘Cram-the-Van’ school supply drive a huge success

The lobby of Memorial Elementary was recently transformed into a towering display of community generosity, thanks to a donation from Imperial Cars for this year’s “Cram-the-Van” School Supply Drive.

Stacked high in the school lobby were dozens of complete, pre-packaged school supply kits, ensuring that local children head back to the classroom equipped with the tools they need to succeed.

Understanding the financial burden back-to-school shopping can place on families, Imperial Cars stepped up in a major way as a key community partner. “We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support from Imperial Cars. This donation directly supports local students and classrooms, giving them much-needed supplies and confidence as they start the new school year. It is a wonderful example of what can happen when local businesses invest in our youth.”

Memorial Elementary School Community extends its heartfelt appreciation to the team at Imperial Cars and to all the community members who contributed to making this year’s drive a resounding success.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools



Hopedale Council on Aging update

Flu shot clinics:
Take place in the Hopedale Jr/Sr High School cafeteria. Open to people ages 5 and above. High dosage available.
Mon. Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/262305159954159>
Sat. Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/262427133730148>
Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m.: Senior Scam Awareness Presentation. Free and open to all.
Oct. 7 at 12:30 p.m.: Tri-Valley Baked Potato Bar. \$3 suggested donation. Starts right after Scam Awareness Presentation.
Oct. 12: Center closed for holiday
Oct. 19 at 9 a.m.: Coffee with Chief Lima at Senior Center. Free and open to all.
Oct. 24 evening: Trunk or Treat. Call for details and to sign up
Oct. 28 at 12 p.m.: Cultural Kitchen # 3. Call to RSVP

food from Mandarin of Milford. Free, spots limited.

Weekly programs:

- Bingo, every Monday except holidays, doors open at 12:30 p.m., tickets \$1/\$1.50, snacks and coffee provided, open to those 60+
- Meditation, (\$5 per class, Wednesdays 11 a.m.-12 p.m.)
- Tai Chi (\$5 per class, Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursdays 1-2 p.m.)
- Watercolor, open to all skill levels, (\$20 per class, pay for entire month) Thursdays 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

Returning this month:

- Dance Classes return 10/6, all skill levels and backgrounds, (\$5 per class, Tuesdays at 3:30- 4:30 p.m.)
- Literature Learning returns 10/21 (\$5 per class, Wednesdays at 12:30-2 p.m.)

Submitted by Hopedale Council on Aging

BVT 2026 annual report now available

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) announced that its 2026 Annual Report is now available on the school’s website. Covering fiscal year 2026, the report highlights achievements, key financial information, and the launch of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute, known as BVTi.

“As responsible stewards, we remain committed to maintaining and improving our campus through smart budgeting, low debt and thoughtful long-term planning,” said Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II.

“In FY26, we launched BVTi, which offers hands-on, career-focused learning beyond our day programs (first shift) and into the evening (second shift). Through grant-funded, credential-based programs in advanced manufacturing, electrical, HVAC, plumbing and welding, BVTi supports adults, strengthens the regional workforce, and generates nonlocal taxpayer revenue.”

The FY26 annual report, titled Second Shift, explores BVT’s continued expansion of career-focused education and highlights the school’s day and evening programs. The 2026 Annual Report is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/annualreport.

Submitted by BVT

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SCHOOL YEAR

continued from page 1

opportunities for students and families to connect, become familiar with their schools, and begin building relationships before the first day.

At Hopedale Junior-Senior High School, the administrative team, including Mr. Ather-ton, Mr. Johnson, and several faculty and staff members, welcomed incoming Grade 7 students and their families to an orientation session. Students new to JSHS were also invited. Families received key information about the transition to the Junior-Senior High School and what students could expect as they began this new chapter.

Following the informational session, members of StuCo welcomed students to the annual Lock-In. Student leaders led students through a series of small-group activities designed to help them become familiar with their new school, connect with their peers, and begin building relationships with other members of the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School community. The enthusiasm and leadership our student leaders demonstrated helped create a positive, welcoming start for our



Student Council welcomed students and families to Grade 7 orienta-tion. Photo courtesy of Hopedale Public Schools

newest junior high students.

Memorial Elementary School also created several opportu-nities to welcome its newest students. Incoming kindergar-ten students and their families first gathered for an ice cream social hosted by PACE. The event provided a relaxed, fun setting for children to meet fu-ture classmates, for families to connect with one another, and for the Memorial Elementary School administrative team, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Pittorino,

to welcome them.

On Sept. 1, Memorial hosted kindergarten orientation, of-fering students and families the chance to practice riding the bus, meet their teachers, visit classrooms, and become familiar with the school before the first day. These experi-ences help ease the transition to kindergarten and help our youngest students start the school year feeling comfortable, confident, and excited.

At the Bright Beginnings



Kindergarten students and their families enjoyed an ice cream social hosted by PACE. Photo courtesy of Hopedale Public Schools

Center, Principal Poisson wel-comed students and families to “Popsicles with the Principal.” On a beautiful summer day, families gathered on the play-ground as our youngest learners met new friends, explored their school environment, and began to feel comfortable in their new surroundings. Families also at-tended orientation on Sept. 1, offering another opportunity to learn more about the school and prepare for the year ahead.

The time and thought our

schools put into these welcom-ing events reflect what is at the heart of Hopedale Public Schools: “Every Student. Every Opportunity. Every Day.” A strong sense of belonging begins before the first day of school, and these events gave students and families opportu-nities to connect, ask questions, build relationships, and start the year as members of their school communities.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

GIOVANELLA

continued from page 1

ficult incidents, and plenty of memories along the way. Having Lisa be the one to make that final call was a fitting and emo-tional way to close out Chief

Giovanella’s career.”

To watch a video of the final call, visit @hopedalepolicedept on Facebook.

Giovanella submitted his notice to the Select Board in December, and in January Lieutenant Ricardo Lima was named his successor.



Friends, family and residents gathered outside the Hopedale Police De-partment to clap out former Hopedale Police Chief Mark Giovanella’s as he entered retirement. Source Facebook @hopedalepolicedept

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Celebrating a legacy of service in Hopedale Public Schools

District honors more than 30 employees for 20 or more years of service

Some milestones deserve more than a passing mention; 20 years of service to a school district is one of them.

During this year's opening day ceremony, Hopedale Public Schools had the special opportunity to recognize more than 30 employees who have dedicated 20 or more years of their careers to serving students, families, and the Hopedale community. This list includes four employees with over 30 years of service: Lisa Pigeon, Karlene Pedrolí Alger, Ann Rolo, and Robert Gilbertson.

This year marked the first time the district has presented its 20+ Years of Service Awards, making the recognition particu-

larly meaningful. Together, these honorees represent hundreds of years of combined service to Hopedale Public Schools and, more importantly, generations of students whose lives they have influenced.

The recipients represent the many different roles that make a school district successful. Among those recognized were teachers and administrators, bus drivers, food services staff, administrative assistants, and custodians. While their responsibilities may look different, each plays an essential role in creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where students can learn and thrive.

For many of those recognized, their years of service represent far more than time spent in a particular position. They represent countless first days of school, classroom lessons, bus rides, meals served, offices welcoming families, buildings prepared for students each morning, celebrations, challenges, and the everyday moments that make a school community special.

The recognition also provided an opportunity to reflect on the value of experience within a school district. Veteran employees bring not only years of professional expertise, but also institutional knowledge, relationships, traditions, and a deep understanding of the community they serve. They provide continuity, mentor colleagues, and help pass along the traditions and values that make Hopedale Public Schools a special place.

Those celebrating 20 or more years of service were invited to be recognized in front of their



During this year's opening day ceremony, Hopedale Public Schools recognized more than 30 employees who have dedicated 20 or more years of service to the district. Courtesy photo

colleagues. Each honoree received a well-deserved round of applause from the faculty and staff gathered to begin the new school year together.

While this was the first year the district formally presented its 20+ Years of Service Awards, the appreciation behind the recognition extends far beyond a single ceremony.

Every year of service matters. Every student transported safely to school, every meal prepared and served, every classroom supported, every building cared for, every family welcomed, and every lesson taught contributes to our stu-

Hopedale Public Schools employees Lisa Pigeon, Karlene Pedrolí Alger, Ann Rolo, and Robert Gilbertson were honored in September for their 30+ years of service to the district.

dents' daily experience.

When that commitment continues for two decades or more,

its impact reaches well beyond an individual employee. It becomes part of the community's fabric.

As Hopedale Public Schools begins another school year, the district is grateful for the more than 30 employees who have devoted 20 or more years of their careers to making a difference for students and families.

Hopedale Public Schools is proud to celebrate and thank all of this year's honorees for their extraordinary dedication to Every Student. Every Opportunity. Every Day.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

localtownpages

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to all the
households & businesses in the
Community of Hopedale

Publisher

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Office Address

9 Industrial Road, Suite 107
Milford, MA 01757

Ad Deadline is the
14th of each month.

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Library to hold costume swap on Oct. 3

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Bancroft Memorial Library will hold its second annual Halloween Costume Swap on Sat., Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Program Room.

The library has approximately 50 costumes available for all ages, including 35 from last year and 15 newly donated this year, along with assorted accessories such as crowns, masks, and other costume pieces.

“The Costume Swap gives families a fun way to find free costumes while giving gently used costumes a new home,” said Library Director Keely Bethel-Penny. “It saves families money, encourages reuse, and keeps costumes circulating instead of ending up in the landfill (especially since children may only wear a costume once before outgrowing it).

The library held its first swap last year, which included 48 donated costumes and 30 odds-and-ends pieces, and was attended by 32 people.

Bethel-Penny said, “Families really enjoyed having a fun way to kick off the Halloween season while saving money. They also appreciated the variety of unique costumes that you don’t



The Bancroft Memorial Library will have several Halloween costumes and assorted accessories at this year’s annual Costume Swap on Oct. 3. Courtesy photo

Costume donations can be dropped off at the Bancroft Memorial Library through Friday, Oct. 2.

always find in stores.”

How it works: Bring a costume to swap, receive a ticket, and browse for a new-to-you costume to take home. Swap any costume for any other, regardless of size. If you don’t find something you love, take your original costume back or donate it for future swaps.

Pet of the month: Paddington

Paddington may as well have come from deepest Peru for all we know. He clearly seemed out of place when he arrived at the shelter. But just like the bear he is named after, all he needs is a family to find him and take him home.

Paddington was very aloof and nervous for the first few weeks after he arrived; often giving us a very hard stare much like Paddington Bear was known for. Our volunteers saw the scared cat behind that stare and gave him love and patience in return. We discovered that the way to Paddington’s heart was through grooming - he absolutely loves being brushed!

He has made progress but still gets nervous, so he will need a patient adopter.

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



Back to School: Junior-Senior High School again buzzing with high energy

The summer lull came to an abrupt end in September as the Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School hallways erupted back to life with high-fives, new backpacks, and unmistakable first-day energy.

From eager junior high students stepping off the school bus for the very first time to the high school, and seniors reclaiming their spots in the hallways and parking lots, students returned to class with contagious excitement. Morning drop-off zones were filled with animated reunions as Blue Raider classmates and staff caught up on summer adventures and compared class schedules.

Inside the classrooms, teachers greeted their new students with icebreaker activities, col-

orful room transformations, and high-energy lesson plans designed to build momentum early. The energy didn't stop at the final bell; the campus was active as students dove into extracurricular clubs and hit the athletic fields, where Blue Raider athletes are already fueling their competitive spirit for the season ahead.

The school’s leaders, students and teachers noted that attendance and spirits were notably high throughout the opening week, signaling a promising start to the academic year ahead. Everyone seem aligned on one thing: the energy in the air suggests this Hopedale Jr Sr High school year is off to a great start.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

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State officials present copy of 1776 Declaration to town

By THERESA KNAPP

At the meeting of the Hopedale Select Board on Sept. 14, State Representative Brian Murray and State Senator Ryan Fattman presented local officials with a framed copy of the original Declaration of Independence, in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Rep. Murray told the board, "The legislature has made available 351 replicas of the original Declaration that was done for us to provide to all of our cities and towns, so Senator Fattman and myself were presented with the Declaration for Hopedale. This is printed on linen paper, just as the original one was, on a press from the 1700s [with] historically accurate language just as Ezekiel Russell did in 1776."

He continued, "The reason why we were provided with these for each city and town, was to mark the tradition in Massachusetts - being the only colony of the 13 that made original prints for all of the cities and towns, all of the communities, and they were presented to the communities to be read at the open square."



There is a brass plaque at the bottom of the frame document that reads, "Presented to the Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts / By State Representative Brian Murray and Senator Ryan Fattman / This authentic reproduction of the Ezekiel Russell Declaration of Independence was printed on a historically accurate press using linen cotton paper similar to the 1776 Salem original to commemorate the 250th anniversary and honor the unique tradition of Massachusetts delivering it to every city and town."

Select Board members Glenda Hazard, Bernie Stock, and Carole Mullen thanked the officials for the gift and said it was "beautiful."

Sen. Fattman said, "And we're technically not late because July 4th, 1776, informa-

"This is printed on linen paper, just as the original one was, on a press from the 1700s [with] historically accurate language just as Ezekiel Russell did in 1776."

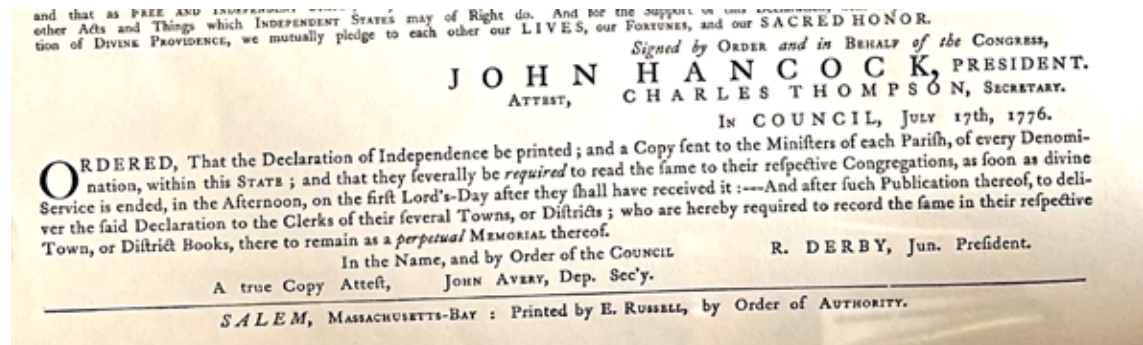
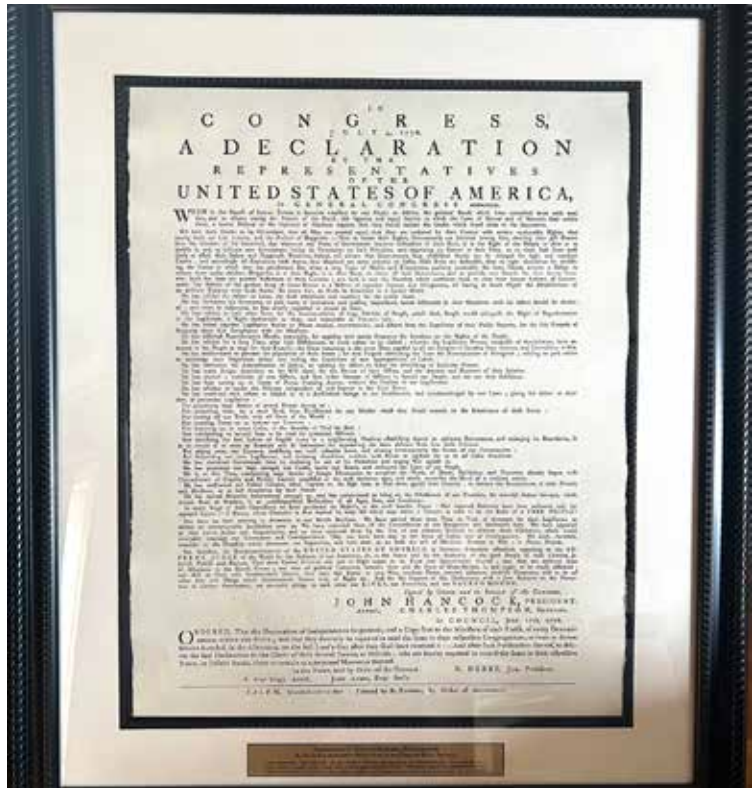
~ State Rep. Brian Murray

tion traveled very slowly and so there was still Declaration readings across towns into September of 1776."

To watch the presentation, visit townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=56&id=76736.



(L to R) State Representative Brian Murray and State Senator Ryan Fattman presented to the Hopedale Select Board a framed copy of the original Declaration of Independence in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary. Photo source: www.townhallstreams.com. Document image: State Rep. Brian Murray



Presented to the Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts
By State Representative Brian Murray and Senator Ryan Fattman

This authentic reproduction of the Ezekiel Russell Declaration of Independence was printed on a historically accurate press using linen cotton paper similar to the 1776 Salem original to commemorate the 250th anniversary and honor the unique tradition of Massachusetts delivering it to every city and town.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Beyond medical bills: Using an HSA to fuel your retirement



Glenn Brown, CFP

Open enrollment for work benefits is coming. One critical choice often causes confusion: deciding between a PPO medical plan and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) paired with a Health Savings Account (HSA). Understanding how these work can help you make smarter choices for 2027 and your future.

Choosing the Right Medical Plan

Selecting the right health plan comes down to three primary factors:

1. Provider Access: Ensure your preferred doctors, specialists, and hospitals are in-network. No amount of tax savings offsets losing access to your

- trusted care team.
- 2. Total Annual Cost:** Compare the guaranteed cost (monthly premiums) against potential care costs (deductible and out-of-pocket maximum). Look at historical medical expenses, but also plan for expected upcoming care.
- 3. Tax & Savings Strategy:** An HDHP paired with an HSA offers triple tax savings. While popular for those with low healthcare needs, HDHPs can also be cost-effective for heavy users—provided you have the cash flow to handle higher up-front expenses before insurance kicks in.

Unlocking the "Triple Tax Advantage"

An HSA provides three distinct layers of tax savings that no other financial account can match:

Tax-Deductible Contributions: Funds contributed directly or via payroll deduction reduce your taxable income for the year (saving federal, state, and FICA taxes).

Tax-Free Growth: Earnings, interest, dividends, and investment gains grow compoundingly without triggering annual taxes.

Tax-Free Withdrawals: Withdrawals used for qualified medical expenses—such as doctor visits, prescriptions, dental care, and vision—are completely federal tax-free.

Real-World Tax Savings

Consider a family in the 24% federal tax bracket spending \$4,000 annually on routine healthcare. By funding those out-of-pocket costs through an HSA, they can save roughly \$1,480 in taxes (federal, state, and FICA). A household in the 32% bracket maxing out the \$9,000 family contribution can save between \$3,500 and \$4,100 in taxes, depending on whether their individual earnings exceed the Social Security wage cap.

Don't Leave "Free Money" on the Table

Surprisingly, more than half of eligible employees never open or fund an HSA. This is a costly oversight because many employers offer \$500 to \$2,000 per year in seed contributions or wellness incentives (such as completing an annual physical) to jump-start accounts. Contributing even a small amount per pay period ensures you capture these employer matches.

2027 IRS Contribution Limits & HDHP Requirements

The IRS has released limits for 2027:

- Individual: \$4,500
- Family: \$9,000
- Catch-Up (55+): \$1,000

Remember, employer contributions count toward the annual contribution caps.

A Long-Term Wealth-Building & Retirement Tool

Unlike Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), your HSA balance belongs entirely to you. Unused funds never expire, thus any account balance rolls over and continues growing. Once your balance reaches your provider's investment threshold, you can invest those dollars into index funds. Some will choose to pay current medical bills out of pocket, allowing their HSA funds to compound untouched for years or even decades. This becomes a secondary tax-deferred retirement bucket. How?

After age 65, the non-medical withdrawal penalty of 20% disappears. Thus, your HSA effectively functions like a Traditional IRA:

- Pull funds for healthcare (Medicare Part B/D, dental, long-term care) tax-free.
- Pull funds for general living expenses, paying standard income tax with zero penalty. Plus, HSAs have no Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), giving you total control over your withdrawal schedule.

The Bottom Line

Whether managing immediate healthcare expenses or building a tax-free nest egg for retirement, an HSA remains one of the most versatile financial wellness tools available. Take time during open enrollment to review your options, calculate your savings, and secure employer contributions. *The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.*

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

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Hopedale early voting Oct. 17-30

Early voting in Hopedale will take place in the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall, 54 Hopedale St., Suite 10, from Sat., Oct. 17 to Oct. 30.

The hours will be:

Saturdays - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Sundays - No early voting hours
Mondays - 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Fridays - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The last day to register to vote is Sat., Oct. 24, at 3 p.m.

The state election will be held on Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Draper Gym, 13 Dutcher Street.

Submitted by the Town of Hopedale



West Nile virus detected near Liberty Circle

West Nile virus positive mosquitos were found near Liberty Circle as of Sept. 15, according to the Hopedale Board of Health. The area was sprayed soon after by the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project. Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov/1220/Board-of-Health

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Bancroft Memorial Library news

Reminder: The library will be closed on Oct. 12 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day.

For more information or to register for programs, please visit the Library's online Event Calendar at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org or call the Library at 508-634-2209.

Community Conversations – Wed., Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m., Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room for a discussion on "How Our Municipal Government Works" with guest speaker Bernie Stock.

Helen Symonds Book Club – Wed., Oct. 7, from 1–2:30 p.m. The Helen Symonds Book Group will meet in the Program Room to review *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles.

Drop in Cribbage – Fridays 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23 & 10/30 at 1:30 p.m. Join us in the Program Room where we offer a relaxed, come-when-you-can atmosphere to enjoy friendly games with players of all levels.

Cribbage Tournament – Wed., Oct. 21, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. We are excited to partner with Blackstone Valley Libraries to host Cribbage Tournaments! Enjoy an evening of strategy, fun, and great company! We do ask that you bring a cribbage board and deck of cards just in case we need more. Registration is required.

Medicare help with SHINE Counselor Jenna – Tues., Oct. 6, appts at 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. Jenna is a SHINE Counselor trained and certified by the Massachusetts Executive Office

of Aging & Independence in the various options available to Medicare beneficiaries-including Medicare Parts A & B, Medicare Advantage, Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D), Medigap, Prescription Advantage, MassHealth, and other programs that help people with limited resources pay for health care costs. Register for a FREE 1 hour appointment with Jenna through the Library's online Event Calendar or call the Library at 508-634-2209.

Get help with Jenna – Tues., Oct. 20, appts at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., & 11:30 a.m. Need help with applications or accessing support services? Jenna, a Community Health Worker with the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health, is here to help! She works closely with the Hopedale Board of Health and has extensive experience in healthcare and human services. Jenna can provide guidance with WIC and Fuel Assistance applications, past-due bills, and other life challenges. Register for a FREE 30-minute appointment with Jenna through the Library's online Event Calendar or call the Library at 508-634-2209.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HOPEDALE LIBRARY

New England Ghosts – Mon., Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m. Join award-winning storyteller and performer Jonah Knight of New England Ghosts for an engaging evening of true, well-researched ghost stories from across New England. Jonah brings these fascinating tales to life by combining storytelling, history, and magical effects. The journey includes one story

from each of the six New England states - from a benevolent spirit in Massachusetts and a haunted graveyard in Vermont to mysterious happenings in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island. Come discover some of the region's most intriguing legends and the stories behind them. You may even leave wondering what is possible—and what remains unexplained! Registration is required.

Book Donation Day – Wed., Oct. 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Hopedale Library would love your like-new books for our Ongoing Book Sale. Children's books of any age are welcome. Due to space constraints, we ask that adult books be published within the last 10 years or later. Unfortunately, we cannot accept old books, textbooks, or cookbooks. We depend on books in saleable condition to raise money to support Library programming.

FlowerPower Fundraiser – through Oct. 15. Please support The Friends of the Hopedale Library by shopping our FlowerPower.com fundraiser through Oct. 15. You can order fall bulbs online and have orders shipped directly to you. The Friends of the Hopedale Library earns 50% which goes right back to the Library! Shop at <http://hopedalelibrary.fpfundraising.com>.

Ongoing Book Sale – ongoing. Visit the Friends of the Hopedale Library Ongoing Book Sale downstairs outside the Program Room. Open whenever the Library is open, with new selections added weekly! Find books for adults



and children, plus puzzles, starting at just 50¢. All proceeds support Library programs and services.

The Friends of the Library monthly meeting – Wed., Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m. The Friends of the Hopedale Library, founded in 1983, is an active volunteer, non-profit organization with a town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with the Library staff and the Trustees to support the Library in providing funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library's regular operating budget. The Friends of the Hopedale Library meets the second Wednesday of the month, October through June. New members and ideas are always welcome.

NEWS FROM THE MARJORIE HATTERSLEY CHILDREN'S ROOM

B.A.S.H. (Bancroft After School Hangout). This is an after-school, drop in program held Mondays through Thursdays for students in Grades 4-6 from 2:30-4 p.m. Play games, use laptops, or do arts and crafts in a safe, social environment. Students must be able to reach a parent/guardian and follow Library rules.

Tummy Time – Tuesdays, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 & 10/27 at 10 a.m. Welcome parents and newborns! Drop in for some infant fun in our Program Room. Tummy Time will have a story time and free play with developmentally appropriate assorted toys that encourage gross motor development and social interaction. For ages newborn – 18 months.

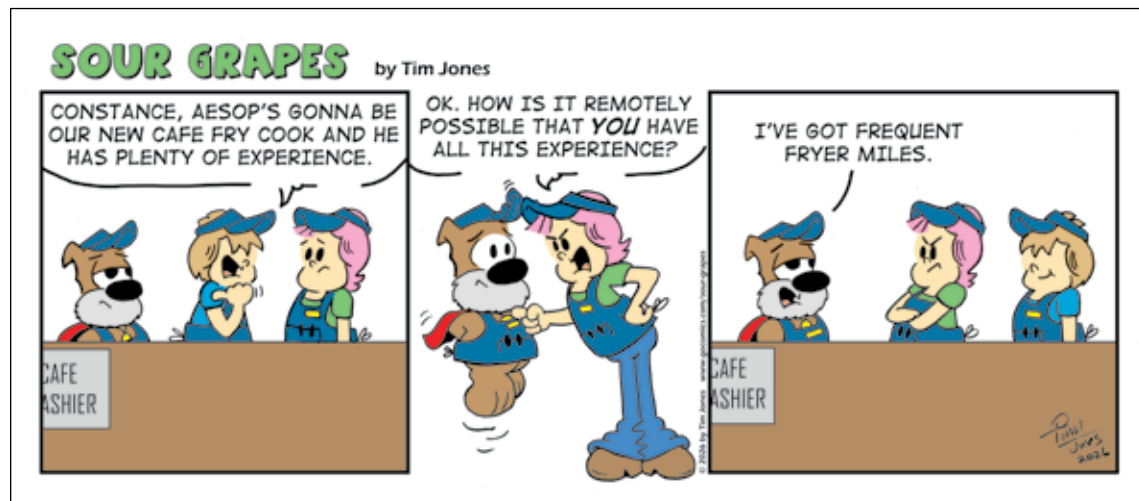
Toddler Tunes – Thursdays, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29 at 10 a.m. Toddlers are full of energy and this program is perfect for them! Each class we will do an assortment of story time, movement games, parachute fun, ball movement skills, instruments, bean bags, scarves and bubbles. Drop in. For ages 18 months to 3 years.

2nd Annual Costume Swap – Sat., Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Join us for a pop-up costume store in the Program Room. Bring a costume to swap, receive a ticket, and browse for a new-to-you costume to take home. Swap any costume for any other, regardless of size. If you don't find something you love, take your original costume back or donate it for future swaps.

Builder Saturdays – Sat., Oct. 10, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. If you love Legos, we've got thousands to play with! Drop in - all ages are welcome.

Movie Matinee – Sat., Oct. 17, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Join us for a movie at the Library! Bring some snacks, a cozy blanket, get comfy and enjoy a family friendly flick!

Volunteer Saturdays for High School Students – Sat., Oct. 24, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Each month there will be an opportunity for high school students to earn 2 hours of volunteer time from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Registration is required.



BANCROFT

continued on page 12

Hopedale fall bucket list

14 things to do in Hopedale this fall

By THERESA KNAPP

For a small town, Hopedale has a large amount of things to do in fall, and below are just a few.

The Hopedale Parklands alone offer nearly 180 acres for hiking, biking, wildlife watching and picnicking, and the quaint historic town is an ideal place to take fall photos.

- 1. Photograph Hopedale's fall colors.** Challenge yourself to photograph 10 different shades of autumn around town (see sidebar for suggested locations).
- 2. Have a fall picnic at the Parklands.** Pack sandwiches, apples, cider and a thermos of something warm and enjoy the Parklands which was designed by landscape architect Warren Henry Manning, who worked in the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted (who designed Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace, among many). For a Parklands map, visit www.hopedale-ma.gov/1418/Hopedale-Pond-and-Parklands.
- 3. Take a fall foliage walk around Hopedale Pond.** Grab a coffee and take in the changing leaves along the Parklands.
- 4. Explore the Willard Taft Nature Trail.** Make a morning or afternoon of hiking, biking and looking for signs of wildlife. Willard Howard Taft was the 27th president of the United States (1909-1913) during which time he paid a social visit to then Massachusetts Governor Eben Sumner Draper at the Governor's Hopedale home in 1910.
- 5. Visit the Little Red Shop Museum.** This museum is dedicated to preserving Hopedale's industrial past and the Draper legacy. Open Sundays 1-4 p.m., and most Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. www.littleredshopmuseum.org
- 6. Take a self-guided walking tour.** A walking tour of Hopedale includes stops at Adin Ballou Park, Draper factory site, the Parklands, Dutcher Street company housing, Unitarian Church and former Town Hall, and Bancroft Memorial Library. The map can be found



The Hopedale Village Cemetery is one of many places to capture fall foliage. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp, 2025

Perfect Hopedale fall foliage photo backdrops include:

- 1. Adin Ballou Park and monument**, 2 Peace St.
- 2. Bancroft Memorial Library**, 50 Hopedale St. Romanesque building was constructed of pink Milford granite in 1899.
- 3. Statute of Hope at library**, 50 Hopedale St.
- 4. The Little Red Shop**, 12 Hopedale St.
- 5. The Parklands**, 4 Hopedale St. (*Don't miss the stone bridge, lookout*)
- 6. Hopedale Pond** (*Don't miss the bathhouse*)
- 7. Hopedale Town Park**, 4 Hopedale St. (*When open*)
- 8. Phillips Field**, 24 Mellen St.
- 9. Hopedale's mill river vista**, Mill St. or Hartford Ave.
- 10. Hopedale Unitarian Parish**, 65 Hopedale St. Originally "Draper Memorial Church," was constructed of pink Milford Granite and has Indiana limestone trimmings in 1898. www.hopedaleunitarian.org/history.
- 11. Former Hopedale Town Hall.** Richardsonian Romanesque style building constructed in 1886 of pink Milford granite with a darker contrasting trim of Longmeadow sandstone. <https://buildingsof-newengland.com>.
- 12. Draper-era worker housing.** Distinctive historic homes along Dutcher Street built between 1902-1907. <https://home.nps.gov/places/hopedale-company-housing.htm>.
- 13. Hopedale Community House**, 43 Hope St. The building opened in 1923 and was a gift from the Draper Family to Hopedale residents to provide recreational activities.
- 14. Hopedale Village Cemetery**, 1 Fitzgerald Dr. Consists of 25 acres of rolling hills, open fields, and sylvan woods.

at www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/3-little-red-shop.htm.

- 7. Admire the architecture along Hopedale Street.** Look for distinctive Victorian homes, historic public buildings, and remnants of Hopedale's company-town past.
- 8. Visit 'Statue of Hope' at Bancroft Memorial Library.** This white Carrara marble sculpture and fountain (originally a public drinking fountain) is one of the town's most treasured landmarks and was sculpted by Waldo Story. In Nov. 1904, it was gifted to the town by Susan Preston Draper, wife of General William F. Draper. www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org
- 9. Go birdwatching.** Bring binoculars to Hopedale Pond or the Parklands and

see how many species you can spot before winter arrives. According to ebird.com, more than 100 species of birds have been seen at Hopedale Pond. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2115294/bird-list>.

- 10. Try fall fishing at Hopedale Pond.** The town lists fishing as one of the recreational uses of the 83-acre pond. For fish populations, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/hopedale-pond.
- 11. Take a kayak or canoe out for a fall paddle.** Hopedale Pond permits cartop boating, providing another way to see the autumn landscape from the water. The boat ramp is near 2 Hopedale St.
- 12. Visit Phillips Field.** Take a walk around the recreation area and enjoy one of those perfect crisp fall afternoons. For field guidelines,



Map for Town of Hopedale walking tour. Source: National Park Service, www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/3-little-red-shop.htm

- visit www.hopedale-ma.gov/1411/Phillips-Field-Rules-and-Regulations.
- 13. Have a Hopedale history scavenger hunt.** Give children a list of things to find: a historic mill building, old stonework, a town monument, a church steeple and

- a building older than their grandparents.
- 14. Play a round of fall golf.** Take advantage of the last weeks of the season at Hopedale Country Club, a semi-private nine-hole course that offers a distinctly autumnal setting.

HOPEDALE UNITARIAN PARISH

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LIVING HEALTHY

Macular Degeneration new frontiers

AREDS 3 and Photobiomodulation

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

For millions of older adults, Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) represents one of the most significant threats to independent living and visual quality of life. AMD specifically targets the macula—the highly sensitive central area of the retina responsible for producing sharp, straight-ahead vision. When macular function declines, essential everyday tasks like reading fine print, driving safely, recognizing familiar faces, and enjoying hobbies become increasingly difficult.

While dry AMD historically presented limited active intervention options beyond basic nutritional support, major scientific advancements are transforming how eye specialists manage the condition. Today, patients have access to refined oral nutritional formulations alongside breakthrough light-

based clinical therapies—giving us more precise, non-invasive ways to protect precious vision.

Understanding AREDS 3: The Next Generation of Ocular Nutrition

For over twenty years, standard care for intermediate dry macular degeneration has centered around targeted nutritional supplementation. Grounded in the landmark clinical trials conducted by the National Eye Institute—the Age-Related Eye Disease Studies (AREDS and AREDS 2)—these specific high-dose vitamin combinations proved that antioxidant therapy could significantly slow the rate of disease progression.

The classic AREDS 2 formulation, which blends Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Lutein, Zeaxanthin, Zinc, and Copper, established itself as an indispensable tool in preventative ophthalmic care. However, ongoing nutritional

science and clinical research have driven further refinements, leading to the introduction of AREDS 3.

AREDS 3 represents an updated, highly tailored evolution in nutritional management rather than a complete overhaul. While AREDS 2 remains an effective, widely accessible standard, AREDS 3 incorporates crucial modifications designed to improve tolerability, enhance metabolic processing, and offer targeted protection based on individual patient profiles.

Key Clinical Differences in AREDS 3

- Adjusted and Reduced Zinc Levels: High-dose zinc (typically 80 mg in AREDS 2) plays a critical role in retinal enzyme function and antioxidant transport. However, high zinc intake can trigger gastrointestinal distress, stomach upset, or copper



deficiency in sensitive individuals. Furthermore, ongoing research suggests that individual genetic variations may influence how efficiently different patients process heavy metals. AREDS 3 offers tailored options with lowered zinc dosages, ensuring effective antioxidant delivery while reducing digestive and systemic burden.

- Incorporation of Ocular B-Vitamins: Emerging clinical research underscores the protective role of key B-complex vitamins (including B6, B9/folate, and B12) in managing ocular health. These vitamins help lower systemic blood levels of homocysteine—an amino acid associated with vascular stress, inflammation, and cellular damage within the delicate blood vessels supplying the retina. By adding essential B-vitamins, AREDS 3 addresses important metabolic risk factors beyond standard antioxidant protection.

tailored for specific clinical circumstances:

- Patients who experience recurrent stomach upset, nausea, or digestive discomfort with standard AREDS 2 formulas.
- Individuals who require a reduced overall zinc intake due to systemic health conditions or personal medical considerations.
- Patients presenting with elevated vascular risk factors who stand to benefit from daily B-vitamin supplementation.

Deciding between AREDS 2 and AREDS 3 requires a comprehensive evaluation by your ophthalmologist, who can review your overall health history, lifestyle factors, and specific retinal status to recommend the precise formulation suited for your eyes.

Photobiomodulation: A Clinical Breakthrough for Intermediate Dry AMD

While tailored nutrition forms a crucial line of defense, modern eye care now offers direct therapeutic intervention for intermediate dry macular degeneration through Photobiomodulation (PBM).

Photobiomodulation is an advanced, painless, non-invasive treatment that utilizes precise, selected wavelengths of light

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Is AREDS 3 Always Indicated?

It is essential for patients to realize that AREDS 3 is not a mandatory replacement for AREDS 2.

AREDS 2 remains a proven, highly effective, and widely recommended standard for the vast majority of individuals with intermediate AMD. Instead, AREDS 3 provides eye care specialists with a valuable, highly specialized alternative

Virtual Alzheimer's caregiver support group to meet Oct. 13

The October caregiver support group will meet on Zoom 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.

Contact Director of Compass

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Programming Jenn Hozempa at jhozempa@cornerstonemilford.com for more information and for the Zoom link.

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.

EYES

continued from page 10

(yellow, red, and near infrared) to target the retina. At a cellular level, these light wavelengths stimulate the mitochondria—the microscopic “powerhouses” of retinal cells. By boosting cellular energy production (ATP), reducing oxidative stress, and improving local circulation, PBM helps revitalize struggling retinal tissue and slow down cellular degeneration before irreversible sight loss occurs.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center: Leading Edge Eye Care in Your Backyard

At Milford-Franklin Eye Center, we are dedicated to staying at the very forefront of modern medicine. We are proud to be one of the few practices in the Commonwealth—and the first in our area—to acquire and offer photobiomodulation technology for our patients.

Our mission has always been to combine academic-level

clinical excellence with compassionate, community-centered care. By offering cutting-edge treatments like photobiomodulation alongside personalized nutritional strategies like AREDS 2 and AREDS 3, we ensure that you do not need to travel far to receive world-class ophthalmic care. The highest standard of medical innovation is available right here in your backyard.

Whether you are seeking proactive treatment for dry macular degeneration, exploring advanced light therapy, or simply looking for an expert second opinion, our team is here to guide your journey toward preserved visual health.

Protect your sight today. Contact Milford-Franklin Eye Center to schedule your comprehensive evaluation or request a second opinion with our eye care specialists.

For more details, see our ad on page 10.

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Hopedale schools complete districtwide LED lighting upgrade

Over the summer, Hopedale Public Schools made another significant investment in our schools, one that will improve our learning environments today while generating savings for years to come. A districtwide lighting upgrade occurred at all three school buildings, replacing outdated lighting with modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures equipped with motion-sensing technology.

The new LED lighting system will benefit all three of our school buildings in several ways. Students and staff will enjoy brighter, more consistent lighting that creates a more comfortable and productive environment for teaching and learning. LED fixtures provide improved light quality, reduce glare, and maintain more consistent brightness than older

fluorescent systems.

In addition, the new lighting includes occupancy sensors that automatically turn lights off when classrooms, offices, restrooms, storage areas, and other spaces are unoccupied. This smart technology eliminates unnecessary energy use and ensures that electricity is only consumed when spaces are actively being used.

The long-term benefits of LED lighting extend well beyond lower electric bills. LED fixtures consume significantly less electricity than traditional fluorescent lighting, often reducing lighting energy consumption by 50 percent or more. They also have a much longer lifespan, meaning bulbs and fixtures require far less frequent replacement. This translates into lower maintenance costs, fewer disruptions

for staff and students, and reduced waste over time.

For a school district the size of Hopedale, these savings will continue year after year. Every dollar we save on energy and maintenance is a dollar that can be redirected to support our educational programs, classrooms, and students.

This project also reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability. By reducing electricity consumption, Hopedale Public Schools will lower its overall energy use and decrease its environmental footprint. The Greener Communities Grant recognizes municipalities and school districts that are making strategic investments to improve energy efficiency while reducing operating costs.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Honoring Tracey Philips

In September, I was pleased to join Senator Ryan Fattman and the Hopedale Select Board to recognize Tracey Philips for being a member of the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2026.

Each year, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions in their communities. The class this year is comprised of a historic 147 women from across the state, the largest class awarded to date.

Tracey has certainly served her community of Hopedale well. She is the key organizer for several events, including the Fairy Walk through the town's Parklands with miniature houses and fairy tale characters set out; Winter Stroll throughout the historic and business districts; Halloween and Thanksgiving presentations for local businesses; and the Homeowners Christmas Decorations Contest.

These events, in addition to being enjoyed by the commu-



(L to R) State Rep. Brian Murray, honoree Tracey Phillips, Hopedale Select Board member Bernie Stock, and Senator Ryan Fattman at a meeting of the Select Board to recognize Philips as a member of the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2026. Photo source: State Rep. Brian Murray

nity, also generate revenue that benefits volunteer organizations such as the Friends of Historic Hopedale and the Friends of Hopedale Elders.

Thank you, Tracey, for all you do!

Library to host free Toy Swap on Nov. 7

The Bancroft Memorial Library will host a free Toy Swap on Sat., Nov. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Program Room.

Participants can reserve a free 3' x 3' space to bring toys they no longer want and swap with other families.

Anything left at the end of the event can be taken home or donated to the Library which will distribute the toys to local preschools and day-cares.

For more information, visit the library or call 508-634-2209.

BANCROFT

continued from page 8

ROLLING PROGRAMS

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

Reading Dragons: A Card Game Reading Club – All ages. The Reading Dragons program allows kids to earn collectible dragon cards through logged reading time. Every 30 minutes recorded on a Time Tracker earns one card, and completing two hours earns all four stages of a dragon. As they collect more dragons, they can play

the card game with friends. Readers can also share their favorite books by adding recommendations as "Book Scales" to the dragon display in the Program Room.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Bancroft Memorial Library offers the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program for young families and early readers. At registration, you will be provided a starting kit with a library book bag, cable for achievement tags, program information, suggested book list and a log for books 1–100. Every 100 books read earns a tag for the cable, and reaching 1,000 books earns a lawn sign celebrating the achievement.

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



On Oct. 21, the Friends of the Hopedale Library will collect your like-new books for its Ongoing Book Sale. Children's books of any age are welcome. Adult books should be published within the last 10 years. No old books, textbooks, or cookbooks. Proceeds support Library programming.



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HAPPENINGS

Events happening in and around the area

Through Oct. 31

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

Through Nov. 1

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

Oct. 3

1-4 p.m. – **Medway Historical Museum Grand Reopening**, Jacob Ide House, 158 Main St., Medway. Light refreshments, door prizes.

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 Town Common. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

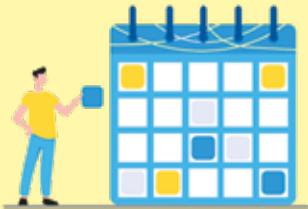
Oct. 30

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 or editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Please confirm details before you head to an event.



Halloween precautions from Hopedale Police Department

Tips for parents, children, drivers



Halloween is fast approaching, and the Hopedale Police Department would like to remind everyone to take a few extra precautions to help keep the night safe and enjoyable for our community.

Parents should make sure younger children are accompanied by an adult and that older children travel in groups. Please use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible, carry a flashlight, and wear bright or reflective clothing so drivers can see you.

Drivers are asked to slow down and use extra caution in residential neighborhoods. Children can be unpredictable and may enter the roadway unexpectedly, so please stay alert and avoid distractions.

Residents who are handing out candy should keep walkways and porches well-lit and free of anything that could cause someone to trip. Pets should also be kept secure during trick-or-treating hours.

Parents should check all candy and treats before children eat them.

Most importantly, please look out for one another and to help make Halloween a safe and enjoyable night for everyone in Hopedale.

Hopedale Police Department wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Submitted by Hopedale Police Department



"WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!"

- Have an Upcoming Event?
- Do you have a concern about things happening around town?

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Hopedale Public Safety Log

Arrests, unattended deaths, suspicious activity

Between Aug. 16 and Sept. 15, the Hopedale Police and Fire Departments responded to hundreds of calls, many related to motor vehicle stops, vehicle accidents/crashes, traffic complaints, erratic operators, preventative patrolling, community policing, illegal parking, theft/larceny/forgery/fraud, burglar alarms, lost/found property, property checks, animal complaints, well-being checks, LTC/FIC (license to carry/firearms identification card) matters, summons service, suspicious activity/person/vehicle, court appearances, prisoner transport, 911 hang-ups/open lines, speed sign/message board information, safety detail officers, school resource officer, car seat installation, general information, and records requests.

Hopedale also provided police assistance to Upton; and provided detail officers to Bellingham, Blackstone, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Upton, and Uxbridge.

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

Aug. 16 at 6:14 a.m., Hopedale St., speed sign/message board information
Aug. 16 at 11:25 a.m., Hopedale Police Dept., car seat installation
Aug. 18 at 1:10 a.m., Robertson Dr., preventative patrolling
Aug. 18 at 1:16 a.m., S. Main St., erratic operator; arrest. A 27-year-old Mendon male was charged with OUI-liquor OR .08%, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, assault and battery on a police officer, and disorderly conduct.
Aug. 19 at 1:36 p.m., HPD, neighbor dispute
Aug. 20 at 6:45 a.m., HPD, patrol observation
Aug. 20 at 7:51 a.m., Evergreen Ln., motor vehicle lockout
Aug. 21 at 4:02 p.m., West St., erratic operator
Aug. 21 at 10:49 p.m., Hopedale St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 45-year-old Milford male was charged with OUI-liquor OR .08%, marked lanes violation, possessing open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.
Aug. 22 at 3:54 p.m., Hopedale St., community policing
Aug. 23 at 1:01 p.m., Lake St., suspicious activity/person/vehicle

Aug. 23 at 9:25 p.m., Mendon St., suspicious activity/person/vehicle
Aug. 24 at 11:45 a.m., Park St., summons service
Aug. 24 at 5:22 p.m., HPD, animal complaint
Aug. 24 at 11:37 p.m., Plain St., motor vehicle accident, arrest. A 38-year-old male was charged with OUI-liquor OR .08% and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. A 20-year-old Hopedale male was taken into protective custody.
Aug. 25 at 4:13 p.m., HPD, theft/larceny/forgery/fraud
Aug. 25 at 5:04 p.m., HPD, theft/larceny/forgery/fraud
Aug. 26 at 3:00 p.m., Harmony Trl., traffic hazard
Aug. 26 at 4:31 p.m., Jones Rd., well-being check
Aug. 26 at 8:35 p.m., Steele Rd., suspicious activity/person/vehicle
Aug. 27 at 12:03 p.m., Peace St., unattended death
Aug. 28 at 10:54 a.m., Freedom St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 44-year-old Hopedale female was arrested on two outstanding warrants.
Aug. 29 at 9:45 p.m., S. Main St., breaking and entering
Aug. 30 at 9:54 p.m., Plain St.,



disturbance
Aug. 30 at 11:47 p.m., Prospect St., investigation
Aug. 31 at 8:09 a.m., Inman St., well-being check, transported to hospital
Aug. 31 at 1:48 p.m., Greene St., unattended death
Sept. 4 at 5:55 a.m., Bancroft Park, officer wanted
Sept. 5 at 6:54 a.m., Bancroft Park, motor vehicle theft/recovery
Sept. 5 at 3:19 p.m., Bancroft Park, illegal parking
Sept. 5 at 8:24 p.m., Mill St., illegal parking
Sept. 7 at 9:34 a.m., Boyd Rd., theft/larceny/forgery/fraud
Sept. 7 at 9:56 a.m., Inman St., officer wanted
Sept. 7 at 11:03 a.m., Hazel St. walking trail, officer wanted
Sept. 7 at 6:12 p.m., Parklands

west entrance, animal complaint
Sept. 7 at 11:13 p.m., Dutcher St., intoxicated person
Sept. 8 at 2:38 a.m., Pierce St., intoxicated person, arrest. A 28-year-old Milford male was charged with breaking and entering nighttime for felony, and violating an abuse prevention order.
Sept. 8 at 10:49 a.m., Hill St., neighbor dispute
Sept. 11 at 11:43 p.m., Jones Rd., well-being check
Sept. 12 at 9:42 p.m., Dutcher & Union Sts., suspicious activity/person/vehicle
Sept. 13 at 9:56 a.m., Francis Rd., suspicious activity/person/vehicle
Sept. 14 at 1:12 a.m., Plain St., officer wanted

Source: Hopedale Police Department

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Lawn mower fire causes minor damage

According to a Facebook post by Hopedale Police Department on Sept. 19, “Hopedale Police and Fire responded to Richard Road for a reported lawn mower on fire with extension to a structure.

“While en route, responding officers observed a large amount of smoke in the area. Upon arrival, officers attempted to knock down the fire using the extinguishers from their cruisers, but were unsuccessful.

“Hopedale Fire arrived on scene shortly after and quickly knocked down the fire, preventing further damage. The structure sustained minor damage, including melting from the flames.”

On a related Facebook post,



a family member reported that “everyone is safe and sound” and extended “a huge thank you

to the Hopedale Fire Department, EMTs, and police for doing such a phenomenal job.”

SPORTS

Hopedale boys cross country



This year's Hopedale Boys Cross Country team. Courtesy photo

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Year after year, under the guidance of Joe Drugan, Hopedale continues to put a quality product of runners on the course whether it's cross country, indoor or outdoor track. Once again, the Blue Raiders' coach is very optimistic in his runners and expecting good things from them this fall during the cross country season.

"Coming in, I am pretty much confident in this group," Drugan said. "In the past, I have had some great teams but this is one that is going to stand out. Their work ethic

and leadership is going to produce good things this season."

The seniors running for Drugan will be competing in their sixth and final campaign for Hopedale. Captains Ben Stone and Connor Fitzgibbons, along with Ethan DeWolf, are seniors who are looking to end their cross country careers by adding yet another state title to the many the team already has.

"These three give the team a really balanced approach. We are going to go out there and take it one meet at a time," the coach said. "I don't have a crystal ball that allows me to predict our future but I am

sure this team is going to be special."

Sophomore Quinn Cook has also shown Drugan some outstanding abilities thus far during practices. If he can stick with the rest of the team, and they can keep it all together while staying healthy and avoiding injuries, Drugan really won't need a crystal ball as his team will be putting together a very interesting season.

"Being the number one runner is always tough, but any of the four mentioned could be that guy for us this year," the coach said. "Right now, we just have to wait and see how

things shake up."

Although he didn't list his entire team, Drugan noted that all of his athletes work extremely hard and are looking to make an impact. There are also a group of younger runners, who have run behind the scenes, that could even emerge into the forefront of Hopedale running this season.

Hopedale was scheduled to open the season on Sept. 8 against Nipmuc and Whitinsville Christian in a tri-meet. The Blue Riders will be shooting for their second straight CMAC Championship, despite not having one of its top runners; senior Ben Powell will not

be able to run this fall due to a back injury. Although Drugan is fully invested in his team challenging for that state title, he knows it would have been a lot different if Powell had been able to run this season.

"Losing Ben could be a big factor," the coach of 32-years said. "This team is going out and will be running for Ben, so we'll see what happens."

Hopedale has captured four state titles and been the runner-up three times under Drugan; and, although his team has not reached the top of the mountain since the 2016-17 season, he is hoping that history repeats itself this fall.

Hopedale Athletic Hall of Fame 2026 inductees

Hopedale Athletic Hall of Fame 2026 inductees include (L to R) Jessica Peacock Celucci (2008), James Gattozzi (1955), Don Lutz (1963), and Joe Small (1970). Not pictured is the Boys 2007 State Cross Country Champions. Source: Facebook

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Date	Hopedale	Amount
09/16/2026	2 Tammie Rd.	\$760,000
09/11/2026	387 S. Main St.	\$470,000
08/31/2026	112 Dutcher St.	\$580,000

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

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The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,253-square-foot house at 112 Dutcher Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$580,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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