

Milford Special Town Meeting to be held Oct. 26

Schools seek \$2.5M for Stacy HVAC work, will drop \$1M electrical request

By Scott Calzolaio

The Town of Milford will hold its Special Town Meeting on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in Upper Town Hall, 52 Main St.

School Committee articles include a \$2.5 million request for HVAC improvements at Stacy Middle School, but they will drop a separate proposal to spend roughly \$1 million to replace the electrical switchgear at Stacy.

District Superintendent Craig Consigli said officials have spent recent weeks refining the district's proposed



Milford Superintendent of Schools, Craig Consigli discusses HVAC renovations at Stacy Middle School. Source: MilfordTV

Town Meeting warrant articles.

"Over the last couple of weeks, we've been working through all these different articles to make sure that

what we're asking the town taxpayers for is actually accurate and what we need,"

TOWN MEETING

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Select Board meeting room dedicated to Dino DeBartolomeis

By Scott Calzolaio

Milford officials, family and friends lined the railings at the Town Hall on Sept. 14 to dedicate the Select Board meeting room in memory of longtime public servant Dino B. DeBartolomeis, who died in April.

DeBartolomeis served nearly four decades on the Select Board before retiring in 2015, though he remained a town staple, mentor, and advisor for the rest of his life.

"Many of us worked with him, learned from him, and relied on his calm leadership," said Select Board Chairman Paul Mazzuchelli as he opened the dedication ceremony. "Naming this room for Dino ensures that his spirit of service stays with us every time we gather to do the town's work."

Mazzuchelli said DeBartolo-



A dedication plaque outside the Select Board's meeting room was unveiled during the dedication ceremony. DeBartolomeis served nearly four decades on the Select Board before retiring in 2015. Source: MilfordTV

DEBARTOLOMEIS

continued on page 3

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FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

Special Guide

LOOK INSIDE!

Cornerstone at Milford held summer send-off

Cornerstone at Milford's residents, families, and friends recently attended the senior living community's End of Summer Bash to close out the season.

Guests enjoyed live music, summer refreshments, and quality time with their families and friends.
Jimmy Buffet-inspired music



Melanie Porier and Geno Shurick.



Suzanne Walton (idle) and Tom Stavish (seated).



(L to R) Luz Taveras, Erlinda Brown, Edna DaCosta, Otilia Hardiman and Kelly Ayotte.

group, Barefoot in Margaritaville, brought upbeat entertainment to Cornerstone's assisted living neighborhood's backyard, while residents living in the Compass Memory Support Neighborhood® enjoyed tunes from professional violinist, Vio-Lynne. The community's skilled dining team brought an impressive array of tropical fruits along with a classic summer cookout

for guests to enjoy before singing and dancing.
A highlight of the evening was the community's Mystery Box Raffle, which raised \$300 for Cornerstone's year-long fundraising efforts for the Alzheimer's Association leading up to their annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Submitted by Cornerstone at Milford

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DEBARTOLOMEIS

continued from page 1

meis made residents feel heard, respected and valued, and thanked “his family for sharing him with the town for so many years.”

State Rep. Brian Murray, who served alongside DeBartolomeis on the Select Board for 15 years, called the dedication a fitting honor.

“Dino was an exceptional public servant, in the true sense of the term,” Murray wrote in a Facebook post after the ceremony.” He was a great friend and mentor and while I certainly miss him, I will never forget him.”

Local attorney and lifelong friend of DeBartolomeis, Ernie Pettinari, reflected on the man that meant so much to him, both professionally, and personally.

“It really still messes my mind up to think that he’s gone,”



Former Town Administrator Louis Celozzi, who served when DeBartolomeis was a Select Board member, unveils the sign above the “Dino B. DeBartolomeis Meeting Room.”

Pettinari said, holding back tears. “Dino was a real, genuine human being. He loved this community, and every person in it.”

Former State Rep. John Fernandes said dedicating the room ensures DeBartolomeis’ name and legacy will remain part of Milford Town Hall.

“We know Dino took his last

breath way too soon, but as long as the dedication to the room is to him,” Fernandes said, “then Dino will live on.”

Before closing out the ceremony, Fernandes drew laughter and agreement from those gathered when he said, “I know that if Dino were able to see this today, he’d say, ‘Well, this is nice.’”



(L to R) Local attorney and DeBartolomeis lifelong friend, Ernie Pettinari, and former State Rep. John Fernandes, at the dedication of the Dino B. DeBartolomeis Meeting Room in Town Hall.



Through Oct. 31

Times vary. **Pumpkin Patch**, St. John’s Church, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin. www.stjohns-franklinma.org

Through Nov. 1

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

Oct. 17

10 a.m. – **Upton Revolutionary War Encampment** immersive event, Upton Town Common. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

6 p.m. – Milford High School Class of 1976 reunion.

For details, contact Ann Robichaud at 508-473-0422 or arobichaud1033@gmail.com.

Oct. 18

4 p.m. – **Evergreen Cemetery Walk**, 8 Green St., Medway. 4-7 p.m. Hot chocolate and donuts at the end of walk. www.medwayhistorical-society.org

Oct. 30

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

Nov. 11

8:30 a.m. – **Mendon Veterans’ Appreciation Breakfast**, Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St. In partnership with Mendon Police Assn. 8:30-10:30 a.m. To reserve your place, stop by or call the Senior Center at 508-478-6175. Transportation is available.

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



Happenings

Events happening in and around the area

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

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Rhodes gifts schools \$25,000 in memory of her mother

Donation to benefit special education, Shining Star

At the Sept. 10 meeting of the Milford School Committee, Rebecca Rhodes (Milford High School Class of 2006) presented a gift of \$25,000 to Lisa Soto, Director of Special Education, and Dr. Corrie Masterson, Director of Shining Star Early Childhood Center, earmarked for the Special Education Department and Shining Star.



(L to R) Mike Aghajanian (Chairman, Milford School Committee); Harold S. Rhodes; Rebecca Rhodes (MHS 2006); Corrie Masterson (Director, Shining Star Early Childhood Center); and, Craig Consigli (Superintendent, Milford School District). Photo source: Milford Public Schools

"Milford schools provided me with a great education (Hampshire College, B.A. 2010, Columbia University, M.A. 2013)," said Rhodes. "At the same time, faculty members provided the emotional support that I needed when my mother suffered a tragic automobile accident, leaving her paraplegic. This gift is special to me as a way to honor her."

District Superintendent

Dr. Craig Consigli added, "Community support for our children with special needs is most welcome. We are proud of Rebecca for her academic achievements and returning to Milford to provide this wonderful gift."

Rebecca is the daughter of Milford resident Mr. Harold Rhodes, a leading advocate in Milford for persons with disabilities.

Milford Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 in Draper Memorial Park after parade

The members of Citizens for Milford invite all area veterans and residents to attend a special ceremony on Veterans Day, Wed., Nov. 11, in Draper Memorial Park, weather permitting. The ceremony will begin immediately following the conclusion of the Veterans Day Parade at approximately 11 a.m.

Participating in the ceremony will be local veterans, clergy, Scouts, and the Milford High School Marching Band. Peter Scandone, chairman of the Veterans Day Ceremony committee, will serve as master of ceremonies. Representatives of the Italian American World War Veterans Milford Post #40 will present the Colors. Members of the Waters Corporation Veterans Employee Resource Group will present a wreath honoring veterans at the World War I monument. Details regarding the Veterans Day Ceremony, including speakers when they are available, can be found at CitizensforMilford.com.

Scandone said, "As the 250th anniversary year comes to a close, we invite all area residents to honor and celebrate our veterans. Please make plans to join us on Wed., Nov. 11, as we line up on Main Street for the parade and then gather at Draper Memorial Park for the concluding ceremony."

The Field of Flags, a tribute to the service and sacrifice of

our veterans and active military personnel, will be installed in Draper Memorial Park prior to Veterans Day, and remain flying until the Monday after Veterans Day. Parade and ceremony attendees are invited to walk among the flags and monuments in Draper Park and read the names of the veterans and active military who are memorialized and honored there.

A limited number of chairs will be available for attendees at Draper Park.

If the parade is cancelled due to rain, the ceremony will be held at the Italian American War Veterans of the U.S. Post #40 Hall (4 Hayward Field) beginning at 10 a.m. If the weather is poor but the parade still marches, the ceremony will be held at the Italian American War Veterans of the U.S. Post #40 Hall beginning at approximately 11 a.m. If the weather looks questionable, please monitor the Citizens for Milford Facebook page (@CitizensforMilford).

Questions regarding the Veterans Day Parade should be directed to the Milford Department of Veterans Services, which organizes the parade. They can be reached at Town Hall and 508-634-2311.

Questions regarding the Veterans Day Ceremony can be emailed to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com.

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Reader Submission Deadline

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

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Mark Freeman, CEPA

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When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow. But maybe you also want it to make a positive difference in the world while you continue pursuing your financial goals. That's the foundation of sustainable investing — an approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors alongside traditional financial analysis.

Sustainable investing allows you to support better business practices through your investment choices. It looks at how companies address issues ranging from climate change to worker well-being to corporate ethics. At its core, it's about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

- Here are the three main areas of sustainable investing:
- **Environmental considerations** include how companies respond to climate change, use natural resources and manage pollution.
 - **Social factors** address workforce well-being, product safety and efforts to reduce social inequities.
 - **Governance** focuses on corporate behavior, ethics policies and financial transparency.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means

sacrificing returns. Research suggests it doesn't. New York University's Stern Center for Sustainable Business reviewed more than 1,000 studies from 2015–20 and found that incorporating ESG factors does not inherently diminish returns, and in many cases is associated with improved financial performance. As with any investment approach, it's important to focus on high quality investments that help support more consistent long term returns.

- Sustainable investing can take several forms:
- **ESG intentional strategies** spread out your investments and have clear goals for choosing companies that follow strong environmental, social and governance practices.
 - **Sustainable thematic strategies** focus on specific issues, such as clean energy or water conservation.
 - **Impact investments** go a step further, targeting measurable environmental or social

outcomes. Because they prioritize more narrow, specific objectives, they may carry higher volatility and potentially lower returns.

One concern you may hear about is "greenwashing," which happens when companies or funds exaggerate their environmental efforts. To help prevent this, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission created a rule in 2023 that requires any fund with "ESG" in its name to keep at least 80% of its assets in ESG aligned investments.

Another challenge is data consistency. Today, 99% of S&P 500 companies report ESG metrics, according to the Center for Audit Quality, but different rating providers still use different methods. Looking at relative rankings can help you compare companies and mutual funds in a more consistent way.

Deciding whether to include sustainable investments in your portfolio really depends on your

values and financial goals. You can build a well diversified portfolio with or without them. A qualified financial advisor can help you understand whether adding sustainable investments fits your overall strategy and makes sense for your situation.

As more companies disclose ESG data and more funds offer sustainable options, investors have increasing opportunities to align their portfolios with their values — without sacrificing their financial objectives.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.
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Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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Milford Cultural Council grant applications due Oct. 15

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

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

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. For more information, contact the council at Cultural-Council@TownofMilford.com or visit MilfordMA.gov/309/Cultural-Council.



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BVT named one of America’s healthiest schools for 2026

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has been named one of America’s Healthiest Schools for 2026 by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing equitable whole-child health by creating healthier school environments.

Supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente, and Kohl’s Cares, this annual awards program recognizes schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices that support academic success and lifelong well-being. Schools are recognized in nine health-related areas.

BVT was recognized for its work to improve nutrition and food access, including conducting student taste tests in the cafeteria, collaborating with the food services team during the school’s annual Multicultural Festival, and developing other partnerships and activities that promote healthy food choices



and access. A special lunch menu celebrating the Multicultural Festival featured coconut burfi brownie bites, a dessert infused with rich Indian flavors. These tasting activities and specialty items were well received by students and provided opportunities to introduce them to new foods and flavors. “It is an honor to be recognized as one of America’s Healthiest Schools,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. “Our staff and students understand the importance of maintaining



A BVT Food Services member displays a Filipino noodle dish at the Multicultural Festival. Photos provided by BVT

a healthy and active lifestyle, and I am proud of the policies and programs that have helped

make health and wellness a priority at BVT.” Submitted by BVT



Coconut burfi brownie bites served as part of a special lunch menu celebrating BVT’s Multicultural Festival.



BVT Assistant Food Manager Claudette Barrett holds taste-test samples in the school cafeteria.

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Perez receives a 2026 Latino Excellence on the Hill Award

Congratulations to Betsaida “Betsy” Perez of Milford who recently received a 2026 Latino Excellence on the Hill Award from the Black & Latino Legislative Caucus at the State House for her selfless and dedicated work on behalf of the community and others.

Betsaida was employed at a daycare facility in Milford for 16 years. She worked closely with parents as a translator while engaged with the local Spanish speaking population and specifically with their children to ensure that they had the support needed to succeed to their full potential.

Betsaida’s mother, Rosa, diagnosed with Lupus at age 13, suffered with end-stage renal disease to the point that she needed a kidney transplant. In 2025, she was fortunate to receive the lifesaving gift of a kidney transplant from a deceased donor.

Recognizing that her mother's transplant gave her a second chance at life, Betsaida be-



Matt Boger, Senior Director of Government Relations at New England Donor Services (NEDS); Rosa Cubias; Betsaida “Betsy” Perez; and State Rep. Brian Murray hold NEDS promotional hearts after Perez, of Milford, received a 2026 Latino Excellence on the Hill Award at the State House. Perez was honored for her volunteer work with NEDS after her mother (Cubias) received a kidney transplant in 2025. Photo source: State Rep. Brian Murray

came a volunteer at New England Donor Services (NEDS) where she advocates for the importance of organ and tissue donation, especially within communities of color. Last year, both Betsaida and Rosa participated in NEDS annual Blue &

Green Walk/5K in Worcester with their team, "Rosa's Hope Squad."

Thank you, Betsaida, for your wonderful work!

Submitted by State Rep. Brian Murray



(L to R) State Representative Brian Murray nominated Betsaida “Betsy” Perez of Milford who recently received a 2026 Latino Excellence on the Hill Award from the Black & Latino Legislative Caucus. Photo source: State Rep. Brian Murray

Kilroy named to ‘Best Lawyers in America’ list

Robert L. Kilroy, of Milford, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® (2027 Edition) for Labor Law – Management and Litigation – Labor and Employment. He has been recognized in Best Lawyers since 2023. Kilroy is co-managing partner at Mirick, a full-service law firm based in Worcester.

Submitted by Mirick



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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.

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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-**

EYE

continued on page 9

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EYES

continued from page 8

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.

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 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 (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 8.

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Milford's little game libraries



A few years ago, the Milford Cultural Council created hand-crafted game boards for public use at Louisa Lake. The MCC also hosts a Game Pieces Library, which it stocks with chess and checkers pieces three times a year. The council requests that everyone return the pieces to the game library after they finish playing. Photo source: Milford Cultural Council

BVT's 2026 annual report now available

Report highlights facts, figures, and launch of BVTi

The 2026 annual report for Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is now available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/annual-report.

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. It highlights

achievements, key financial information, and the launch of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (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.”

Submitted by BVT



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Celebrate your Freedom to Read with the Library

By Harmony Birch
Milford Town Library Director

The air is crisp, the weather is gloomy, and it's the perfect time to cozy up with a horror novel and a cup of coffee or tea, preferably with pumpkin flavoring. October at the library means spooky programs, celebrating our Friends (our patron-led fundraising arm) and their fall book sale, but my favorite part of October is Banned Books Week, which is celebrated Oct. 4-10. Banned Books Week is a call to action to fight censorship and educates about book bans.

Public libraries exist to help you access information in all its forms and this access directly fortifies U.S. Citizen's First Amendment rights, the right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press. At the Milford Town Library, we house media that explores all facets of the human condition. Stories are gateways to other worlds.

Growing up in the 21st Cen-

tury, in the United States, my world view was limited and mostly safe. I learned about war from reading "Night" by Elie Wiesel and "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi; I learned about the American South following the Civil War from "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neal Hurston and Jim Crow through "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee; my love of animals was fostered by Wilbur and Charlotte in "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White; the melancholic but whimsical adventures of the Baudelaire children in "A Series of Unfortunate Events" by Lemony Snicket helped me process childhood depression; and my first glances of young love through Sarah Dessen books prepared me for my own toe dips into romance years later. All of these books have faced censorship challenges and, in some libraries, they're completely banned.

In 2025, 5,668 books were

banned from libraries across the U.S., according to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom. This is the highest number of bans in a single year and the highest percentage of challenged books that resulted in bans. Which books are being targeted? Books about the lived experiences of people of color and LG-BTQIA+ folks represent 40% of all challenged materials in 2025. Less than 3% of all book challenges in 2025 came from individual parents.

Luckily, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed a Freedom to Read Law last August, ensuring that books cannot be removed from libraries without first undergoing a transparent review process. This October, celebrate your rights by consuming books and stories that broaden your perspective. Take a stroll to your local library; we've got new worlds waiting for you.

Thanks to Yanks remembers 9/11



On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, two volunteers from Thanks to Yanks, a local charity that supports our military families, reminded drivers that passed them on Cedar Street, Route 85, in Milford, the importance of the day and to always remember the heroes and victims of 25 years ago. (L to R) Neil Reynolds and Judi Dion held signs and the American Flag. The founder of Thanks to Yanks Mike Shain said, "We must never forget the price we pay for our freedom and we can never take it for granted." For more information about the group, visit @thankstoyanks on Facebook. Source: Thanks To Yanks



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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

By Reference Department

Saturday Hours

The library is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Indigenous Peoples Day

The library will be closed all day on Monday, Oct. 12 in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Friends Fall Booksale: Oct. 23 & 24

Don't miss a chance to stock up on great deals on books, DVDs, puzzles, games, music and more at the Friends of the Milford Town Library Fall Booksale! Adult books, games, puzzles are \$2 each and children's and young adult items are 50 cents each. Venmo, cash, and check are all accepted at the booksale.

The members' preview will be on Friday, Oct. 23 from 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The preview is an opportunity to peruse early for the best finds. The sale is open to the public on Saturday, October 24 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds from the sales help fund the youth and adult summer reading programs as well as

programs, lectures, concerts and other programs for all ages.

Basic annual membership may be renewed or purchased at the door for \$15. Become a sponsor for \$50; a benefactor for \$100. Corporate memberships are \$300.

National Friends of the Library Week-Oct. 18-24

Happy #NationalFriendsOfLibrariesWeek! We invite you to join Friends and become a supporter of the library if you are not already a member.

Friends groups support libraries through fundraising, advocacy, volunteering, and so much more. The Friends of the Milford Town Library are an especially dedicated group of individuals who make our library more vibrant for everyone.

We celebrate the entire membership and send a special salute to the Executive Board: Donna Sussman—President; William Trevett--Vice President, Leah Valente—Secretary; Michelangelo Bontempo—Treasurer; Members at Large: Pamela Belloli, Lynda Heller, Barbara Bradbury, Linda

Norton, and Thomas Plain.

Theresa Beggs: Photography

During October, local photographer Theresa Beggs returns to MTL with an exhibit of new work. Theresa's often found by Louisa Lake documenting the beauty of the natural world and connecting with other photographers, walkers, and trail visitors.

English Classes

The library offers free drop-in classes for adults who want to learn and improve their English. Beginner classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. An intermediate class is held on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Classes are held on the lower level of the library in the ESL Classroom. Registration is not required. For more information, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Mexican Tin Art Workshop

On Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m., celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by diving into the vibrant tradition of hojalata,

Mexican tin art, celebrated for its bold colors and intricate designs. Learn techniques for cutting, scoring, and shaping thin sheets of metal. Finish your unique tin art with bold, bright colors. Open to ages 13+. Registration through the library's events calendar is required. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library.

About Pop-Up Art School

Best friends and business partners Janell Scannell and Lisa Walker work and teach side-by-side in their business. Both have earned their BFA's and are certified art teachers for grades K to 8 in the state of Massachusetts. Pop up Art School has been in business for 12 years and has taught over 2,500 art programs in public libraries and council on aging centers. In addition, they provide customizable individual and collaborative projects for teambuilding and corporate events. For more information about Pop-Up Art School, visit their website: <https://www.popupartschool.com/about>

2 Lbs Classic Jazz Concert

Join us for an afternoon of the finest in vocal and instrumental music from the American Songbook with 2 Lbs Classic Jazz, a Boston Metrowest-based jazz quartet on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. The quartet features Wendy on vocals, Mike on bass guitar, Jonathan on piano, and Rachel on drums.

This 2 Lbs Classic Jazz concert is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library. No registration is required for this FREE concert.

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 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.

The October book selection is *Memorial Days* by Geraldine

LIBRARY

continued on page 17



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Wednesday, November 4, 2026

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Preschool – Pre-K
Kindergarten

Milford School updates

Important Dates:

Oct. 12 - No School - Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day.
Nov. 11 - No School - Veterans' Day.

Milford High School

The Milford High After Prom Party is kicking off all of their activities and planning for the next year. It takes lots of work and lots of hands to put together such a special night. Please check out the milfordpublicschools.com/digital-backpack for more information.

Athletic Director

From Athletic Director Mr. Steven DiVitto

HockomockSports.com

Player of the Week - Milford senior Eli Rosenberg was selected as the HockomockSports.com Player of the Week for Sept. 6-13. Rosenberg is the first athlete chosen as Player of the Week for the 2026-27 school year. Rosenberg caught three touchdown passes to help Milford open its season with a commanding 49-7 win over visiting Framingham. He finished with three catches for 120 yards. One of just two seniors in the starting lineup, Rosenberg also chipped in with a big night in the return game and in the secondary to get the Hawks off to the perfect start.

Hockomock League Captains Conference - MHS Fall Sports



In September Kindergarten students joined the Milford Public Schools. There may have been a few tears of adjustment and a few sleepy yawns from our K students, but there were also lots of very proud smiles like this one! These young students are going to accomplish BIG things in our schools this year.



captains joined other Hockomock League Fall Captains for a full morning that was focused on leadership, communication, team culture, and the responsibility that comes with being a captain. This conference was extremely collaborative, and was an

outstanding representation of quality leaders within the Hockomock League. Our captains were recognized multiple times for their leadership, respectful interactions, and being great ambassadors. Our captains were outstanding!

LEAP (Leadership Executive Ambassador Program) Facilitator - Kyla Nashawaty, Milford HS Senior and Girls Soccer Captain, was one of nine Hockomock League LEAP members who were tasked with organizing the Hockomock League Fall Captains Conference. The LEAP members weren't just attending a leadership conference, they

were asked to stand in front of hundreds of their peers from across the Hockomock League, take ownership of an activity, communicate clearly, manage groups, adapt on the fly, and ultimately lead other leaders. We are very proud of Kyla for her organization and leadership for this important Hockomock League initiative. Bravo, Kyla!

Woodland Elementary School

Thank you to the Woodland Cafeteria staff for a strong start to the school year. Close to 80% of Woodland students are served lunch by the WES cafeteria staff on any given day totaling close to 800 students.

Their work supporting our students is significant!

Woodland Elementary School is honored to share that we have been acknowledged as a Unified Champion School by Special Olympics Massachusetts. This honor is the result of the hard work of our entire Special Education Faculty and Instructional Support Staff.

Woodland held its most well attended Back to School Night in quite a while. Thank you to the faculty for their hard work creating a meaningful and engaging night for their families. A huge shout out to the amazing interpretation crew from our Family Welcome Center as well! We were thrilled to see so many families visit Woodland School and our classrooms.

Memorial Elementary School

Memorial School is celebrating a milestone for our Dual Language Program. With a second class joining this year, we

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SCHOOLS

continued on page 13



“Welcome Back Carnival” was a huge success! Families and students played games, jumped in bounce houses, and explored fire, police, highway, and mail trucks.



Students in Ms. Fitzgerald’s First Grade class at Brookside recognized the “Start with Hello Week” theme of Inclusion by wearing green. The Sandy Hook Promise campaign helps kids and teens learn how to tackle social isolation, build empathy, and foster a welcoming school community.



The Music Department had its first performance of the year when the Marching Band cheered on the Scarlet Hawks football team on Sept. 10. Great job to the band - and the team! The Scarlet Hawks pulled off a 49-7 win over Framingham High.

All photos provided by Milford Public Schools

SCHOOLS

continued from page 12

now have 88 students learning in *La Comunidad!*

Memorial Elementary students "stopped, dropped, and did ST Math" as part of a school-wide challenge to get every student on ST Math. They even had a special visit from Jiji, our ST Math mascot, to celebrate!

Memorial Elementary School would like to congratulate Mrs. Cathy Julian on her retirement. Mrs. Julian has retired after 24 years of service to the Milford Public Schools. We are incredibly grateful for Mrs. Julian’s many years of commitment to our school community and for all she has done to support our students and families. We wish her all the best as she begins this exciting next chapter!

Brookside Elementary School

Sixty Brookside first graders started their journey on Ignite Reading. This is a daily 15 minute virtual reading tutorial that targets each student’s need for foundational reading skills. Thank you to our Brookside educators that put together thoughtful and informative presentations for our families that came to Back

to School Night at Brookside. Collaboration between home and school is extremely important!

Submitted by Milford Public Schools



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TOWN MEETING

continued from page 1

Consigli said.

The \$2.5 million HVAC request would focus on Building D, the classroom wing facing Spruce Street.

“The most critical piece of this is where the majority of the classrooms are,” Consigli said.

Officials had considered a broader HVAC project, but Consigli said estimates for completing all of the work came in around \$12 million.

“We had a little bit of sticker shock when they told us the price to get everything done,” he said.

Committee member John Erickson said the Building D work is expected to cost about \$4.7 million in total, including approximately \$2.2 million

previously appropriated. The committee corrected language in the warrant before unanimously approving the additional \$2.5 million request.

If money remains after the classroom-wing work, Consigli said they could address portions of the science wing or air handlers serving the auditorium.

The new appropriation would also pay for engineering and design work for the entire building, allowing those plans to be used as the district tackles additional HVAC improvements in future phases.

The committee also unanimously voted to remove a roughly \$1 million request to replace electrical switchgear at Stacy.

Consigli said that contractors remarked on the equipment’s age, and the fact that it is no longer manufactured, but

School officials had considered a broader HVAC project, but Consigli said estimates for completing all of the work came in around \$12 million.

replacement components can still be obtained. Rather than replacing equipment that may still be functional, they plan to see if it can be repaired.

The district is still seeking \$250,000 to replace its phone system. Officials said the current system is no longer serviced and could be difficult or impossible to restore if it fails.

“It could be tomorrow that they go down, it could be five years from now,” Consigli said.

The committee also approved a \$107,000 warrant request related to compensation for a district employee on military leave.

The full warrant can be found at www.milfordma.gov.

Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
09/25/2026	102 Purchase St.	\$615,000
09/24/2026	353 Purchase St.	\$790,000
09/24/2026	1 Calvin Dr.	\$740,000
09/24/2026	61 Godfrey Ln.	\$460,000
09/24/2026	1 Richmond Ave.	\$500,000
09/22/2026	12 Leonard St.	\$483,000
09/21/2026	48 Mill Pond Cir.	\$799,500
09/21/2026	7 Walden Way	\$749,900
09/18/2026	59 Purchase St.	\$619,000
09/18/2026	7 Caroline Dr.	\$625,000
09/18/2026	16 Black Bear Cir.	\$649,900
09/18/2026	66A Dilla St.	\$429,900
09/16/2026	8 Vassar Dr.	\$789,000
09/16/2026	3 Cornell Dr.	\$570,000
09/15/2026	20D Country Club Ln.	\$415,000
09/15/2026	28D Country Club Ln.	\$405,000
09/14/2026	23 Shadowbrook Ln. #10	\$288,500
09/14/2026	28 Trinity Dr.	\$595,000
09/14/2026	30 Cedarview Cir.	\$612,000
09/04/2026	12 Dartmouth Dr.	\$495,000
09/02/2026	19 Lantern Ln.	\$659,900
09/01/2026	24 Fells Ave.	\$350,000
09/01/2026	4 Frank Dr.	\$722,400
09/01/2026	39 Stallbrook Rd.	\$445,000
08/31/2026	2 Walker Ave.	\$505,000
08/28/2026	17 Princeton Dr.	\$350,000
08/28/2026	21 Taft St.	\$600,000
08/28/2026	32 N. Bow St.	\$399,000
08/28/2026	48 Field Pond Rd.	\$1.21 mil
08/26/2026	26 Mill Pond Cir.	\$1.05 mil
08/26/2026	16 Shadowbrook Ln. #33	\$187,000

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



The 2-bed, 2-bath, 1,434-square-foot house at 61 Godfrey Lane in Milford recently sold for \$460,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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Piazza named 2026 Plains Man of the Year

It was a great turnout at the 45th Annual Plains Association Reunion at the Italian American Vets Post 40 in Milford as Louis Piazza was named the Plains Man of the Year for 2026.

A 1965 graduate of Milford High School, Lou has been such a positive fixture in the community, having served as a respected teacher, coach and valued friend, as well as an extremely talented chef and caterer who has treated a countless number of people over the years to his famous Italian feasts.

The reunion also featured Lisa Santoro, a recent resident to Milford, writer and historian, who provided a very informa-



Louis Piazza was named Plains Man of the Year for 2026.



At the 45th Annual Plains Association Reunion, Lisa Santoro gave a talk about the history of Italian immigration to the United States.

tive talk about the history of Italian immigration to this country and the connection of the Sacco and Vanzetti story, particularly Nicola Sacco who lived here, to Milford.

Submitted by State Rep. Brian Murray

Owl Prowl on Nov. 7

Guided night hike to be held at Louisa Lake

The Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail will hold an Owl Prowl on Nov. 7 from 5-6 p.m. at the Lions Club Pavilion at Louisa Lake, Dilla St., in Milford.

Anyone curious about the sounds of the night who wishes to participate in a short education session, and then hike on a paved trail, can join this nighttime adventure. The hike will last approximately 45 minutes at a moderate pace. Wildlife encounters are never guaranteed.

Hikers should wear sturdy, closed-toe walking shoes and weather-appropriate layers; bring water and a flashlight or

headlamp with a red-light setting; and expect dark or uneven trails; walk quietly and follow your guide.

Please leave pets at home. No registration is required, just arrive before 5 p.m.

The program will take place outdoors after dark and may be rescheduled in severe weather.

If you have questions about the program, call 508-498-2922.

To become a member of the Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail, visit <https://www.milfordtrail.org/donate.html#membership>.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

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/>



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MYC to host 'A Night of Horror Classics' on Oct. 30

This year's Friday Fright Night theme is MYC Presents: A Night of Horror Classics! Are you familiar with Jason, Freddy, Chucky, Pennywise - just to name a few. The MYC putting together the haunted maze that will occupy every room on the top floor of the MYC.

The event will also feature a kid-friendly space in the gymnasium, the Kid's Zone, which will include games, community businesses, raffles, face-painting, jumpy house, crafts, Sparky the Fire House Dog, costume contest on the runway, DJ Ron Auger, and so much more.

Also joining us is guest speaker Carly Fauth of FIT-FUNCARLY, a dedicated fitness instructor, fitness mentor, cancer exercise specialist and breast cancer survivor dedicated to helping people build strength, resilience, and confidence through movement that fits their real life. Carly is a long-time volunteer of the Milford Youth Center, and we are thrilled to have her speak on her journey and encourage our youth to be comfortable in their own skin.

There will be a costume con-



test and walk the runway portion with first, second and third prize! This community event will be held on Fri., Oct. 30, from 6-9 p.m. at the Center.

This year, the first 50 customers buying their tickets in advance will automatically be entered to win a VR META QUEST 2! Tickets are \$5 per person for the Kids Zone only, \$10 per person for the Kids Zone and the Haunted House and \$20 per family of 4 for the Kids Zone and Haunted House. Any child, 8 and under MUST

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Organizers are looking for these volunteers:

- 2 more volunteers to scare!
- 1 to help with pumpkin decorating
- 1 to run the photo booth
- 1 more to run a game

And these donations:

- Old tricycle
- King size black sheets (not fitted)
- Old toys and dolls

If you can help, email Joanna at jabrantes@milfordma.gov

MHS student commended in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

Milford High School student Emily K. Jansons has been named a Commended Student in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), which conducts the program, will be presented to Jansons by Dr. Joshua Otlin, MHS principal.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2027 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."



Milford High School student Emily K. Jansons has been named a Commended Student in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. Photo source: Milford Public Schools

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

Stony Brook Camera Club October meetings

The Stony Brook Camera Club meets in person and/or virtually by Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. from September to June.

In person meetings are held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin. Our meetings feature

speakers, competitions, and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of photography activities, field trips, and workshops throughout the year.

SBCC includes and welcomes photographers of all levels. Meetings for October include:

Oct. 15: (Zoom only) "The Art and Craft of Better Seeing" with John Tunney

Oct. 22: (Zoom only) "The Art of Abstraction" with Deb Loeb Bohren

Oct. 29: (Zoom only) "Lightroom Power Tools" with Rob Knight

Visit stonybrookccc.com for a complete calendar of events and member information.

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always be accompanied by an adult. To purchase tickets in advance, call 508-473-1756.

For more information, visit www.milfordyouthcenter.org.

This event directly supports all our after-school activities for the 10 month after-school program that we run at the Center.

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LIBRARY

continued from page 11

Brooks. Bestselling historical novelist Brooks (*Caleb's Crossing*, *The Secret Chord*, *March*, *People of the Book*, *Horse*) recounts her journey through grief as a widow. Brooks lost her husband, the author Tony Horwitz suddenly in 2019 when he collapsed on a sidewalk in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day.

After three decades together as a couple, Brooks needed to recalibrate and continue living without her beloved partner. Brooks later traveled to her native Australia, spending time alone on Flinders Island to mourn, reflect and process her loss. *Memorial Days* explores Brooks' own emotional state as well as society's expectations following death.

Stop by the Circulation Desk to check out a copy of *Memorial Days*. Copies may also be available via the Libby App.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tues., Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *So Far Gone* by Jess Walter.

In brisk and humorous prose, Walter introduces readers to Rhys Kinnick, an environmental journalist who has been living off the grid since a 2016 Thanksgiving meltdown. Rhys retreated after assaulting his Christian Nationalist son-in-law, losing contact with his daughter and two grandchildren.

Years later, when the grandchildren expectedly arrive at the doorstep of his remote cabin in Washington State, Rhys must re-engage with the world to find his missing daughter Bethany and prevent a religious cult from kidnapping the children. For a man who had grown accustomed to no plumbing and talking to himself, it requires him to dig deep, find his inner compass and learn how to use a smartphone.

Walter previously wrote the bestselling *Beautiful Ruins*, *The Financial Lives of the Poets*, and *Citizen Vince* and other novels.

To reserve regular or large print copies, call us at 508-473-2145 ext. 2 or visit the Libby App.

Mahjong at MTL

The Mahjong group meets twice a month on select Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. in the Quarry Room on the lower level of the library. The group welcomes players familiar with Mahjong to join other players for fun, low-stakes competition. More experienced players often share strategies and tips to improve. The group meets on select Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at the library in the Quarry Room.

October & November meetings

- Oct. 13, 27
- Nov. 17, 24

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.

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 are welcome, from first-time writers to published authors. All genres are welcome, too.

The group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. Carol Allen, a retired middle-school teacher, writer, and book lover, serves as facilitator of the Milford Area Wordsmiths. For more information, call 508-473-2145, ext. 2.

October & November meetings

- Oct. 5, 19
- Nov. 2, 16

Upcoming:
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

Ted Reinstein: Greeting from Breed's Hill: Fact & Folklore on America's 250th.

Ongoing:

- Find great deals on gently used books for children, teens and adults at the Friends Book Store and book table, replenished weekly.
- Donations for the Daily Bread Food Pantry can be dropped off in the blue bin by the Friends book table.
- Community Puzzle Tables are always available in the adult services area.

Seeking donations for MYC after-school Thanksgiving dinner

Donation deadline Nov. 6

The Milford Youth Center is asking for the community's help to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for our after-school program on Tues., Nov. 24.

Every year, with the help of the community and local businesses, the MYC offers a meal to our after-school members, full of turkey (and other various meat options like chicken and ham), multiple side dishes,

delicious desserts, and drinks to celebrate everything that we are thankful for. Last year, the program served over 120 after-school members.

To accomplish this, we are looking to the community (individuals, families, organizations, businesses, restaurants) to donate an item for our meal.

Donations can include beverages, pre-made desserts, side

dishes, gift certificates, etc. We request an ingredient card with every donation for anyone with allergies. We are trying to have all donations finalized by Fri., Nov. 6.

To donate, email Emily at estienstra@milfordma.gov to schedule a time to pick up the item. If you donate a food item, please provide a detailed description allergen card.

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 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.

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SPORTS

Milford Girls Soccer exceeding expectations

Scarlet Hawks on track for strong 2026 season

By Chris Villani

At the start of the season, Milford High head girls' soccer coach Lou Colabello told his team to go out and have fun and let the chips fall where they may.

"In the back of my mind I thought, 'If we win four games, I'd be totally thrilled,'" Colabello said. "Here we are at five wins halfway through the season."

With a 5-3-1 mark at the end of September, the Scarlet Hawks are in a good position to qualify for the postseason. Milford's October slate does include some powerhouses in the Hockomock League like Foxboro and Oliver Ames, along with teams like Attleboro which the Hawks match up well against. Colabello noted that Milford could have a champagne problem of sorts at the end of the year in that a strong finish means

tougher opponents for the pre-tournament "play-in" games.

"Hopefully we can get in with a .500 record, and we won't have to worry about it," he said.

Colabello said that one reason for the team's success is the contributions of some of the players who were on the junior varsity squad a year ago. That said, two of MHS' most experienced players have been the biggest keys to victory.

"As Kyla Nashawaty and Anela Lefter go, we go," Colabello said.

Nashawaty is number one in the league in scoring, and Lefter leads the Hock in assists by a wide margin.

"Anela makes Kyla a tremendous player," the coach said. "[Anela] is a dynamic talent, and only a sophomore. Kyla has fed off of it, and we score."

Milford finished September



Reagan Cunningham (18) is among the Scarlet Hawks' leaders as a team captain. Photo taken by Olga Lyubkin



Kyla Nashawaty (4) is Milford's top goal scorer through the first half of the season. Photo taken by Olga Lyubkin

third in the league in scoring out of 12 teams. Defense has, at times, been a struggle, and teams like Franklin and King Philip were able to run up high goal totals against the Scarlet Hawks. But the defense is not without standout players. Juliana Senna, a captain along with Nashawaty and Reagan Cun-

ningham, is a hard-worker at center back.

"She is a rock back there," Colabello said.

Keira Murphy, a standout track athlete, brings speed to the midfield.

The start of the season also saw a milestone for Colabello, who earned his 200th career

victory as a soccer coach. Colabello, who won 156 games at Douglas before coming to MHS, called it "rewarding" to get to 200 wins.

"It means you did something right," he said. "Of course, I always say that good players make good coaches. That story will never change, in any sport."



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SPORTS

Milford Football among state's top teams

Scarlet Hawks eyeing a deep postseason run

By Chris Villani

The Milford High football team won all three of its games in September, including a last-second field goal to beat King Philip for the first time in six years. Head coach Dale Olson is pleased with how his team looked through the first month.

"The kids are playing well," Olson said. "King Philip graduated a lot from last season, but they are still a very good program, and we were able to beat them."

Milford also knocked off Framingham and Natick during the first month, buoyed by strong offensive performances. Senior skill player Eli Rosenberg has been particularly impactful with seven touchdowns through the first three games.

"He is one of our best skill kids," Olson said. "He has touchdowns through the air, some on the ground. He has been our most dynamic kid overall."

Another senior captain, quarterback Vince Loscerbo, tossed eight touchdown passes in helping the Scarlet Hawks to their 3-0 start.

"He is playing at a high level," Olson said.

On defense, linebacker Wanderson Dos Santos led the team in tackles through the early part of the season. Up front, 6-foot-5 tackle John Raney is an anchor for Milford on both sides of the line. Jaxson Finnimore, a wideout and defensive back, and Adam Tourtellot, a two-way linemen, are two more players that Olson said have been integral to the team's success.

Olson said athleticism and physicality are two of Milford's biggest strengths. One challenge has been working with a relatively young team.

"We only start three seniors, we have five sophomores, and the rest are juniors," he said. "So it's about getting the younger guys, who don't have a lot of game experience, it's about getting them up to speed on how we do things, and what a Friday night looks like."

Olson added, "It's a bit of a baptism by fire."

The schedule doesn't make things easier. Heading into October, Milford still had dates with top powerhouses like Barnstable and Franklin on the docket. Still, Olson said his team "can be as good as they want to be." He said his players, not



Milford celebrates following a touchdown during a September victory. Photo taken by Olga Lyubkin

the coaching staff, are the ones who set the expectations for the season.

"They are the ones who have to go out and do it," Olson

said. "They want to win the Hockomock League championship, and they want to make the playoffs."

A date in the Super Bowl at

the home of the New England Patriots is also on his players' minds.

"The ultimate goal," the coach said, "is to be at Gillette."



Eli Rosenberg has been one of Milford's most "dynamic" players, according to his coach. Photo taken by Olga Lyubkin

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