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January 2021

The Voice of Your Community

Selectmen Grant 12-month Extension for Fourth Cannabis Company

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Board of Selectmen has granted a one-year

extension of the current Host Community Agreement for Green River Cannabis Company, Inc. which has proposed

an adult cannabis retail store at 54 Mellen Street, Unit A. The item was placed on the agenda after the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the company's application for a Special Permit earlier this month.

After the ZBA denial on Dec. 9, 2020, applicant and company part-owner Constant Poholek, Jr., an Attleboro lawyer, told Hopedale Local Home Pages, "I was confused and surprised by the Zoning Board of Appeals Decision. We presented our application to the Board according to the Town of Hopedale By-laws... We were in our legal right to present our application based on the location as permitted in the bylaw."

EXTENSION

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Constant Poholek, applicant and part-owner of Green River Cannabis Corporation, Inc., speaks at the Hopedale Board of Selectmen's meeting on Dec. 21, 2020, where the company was granted a 12-month extension to open its adult cannabis retail store in town.

Police and Fire Staffing Updates:

Police say the Town has Become a "Training Ground" for Officers who Leave for Higher Salaries

By THERESA KNAPP

Town officials express frustration that Hopedale has become a training ground for policemen -- at a cost of approximately \$40,000 per person -- who then leave to advance their careers.

At its meeting on Dec. 21, 2020, the Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Cody Carneiro from the Hopedale Police Department. "He was employed with us for 18 months..We have to rectify

Hopedale being a training ground and then just going to agencies that are paying better," said Police Chief Mark Giovanella, adding he expects another resignation next month from his 13-person force.

Chief Giovanella said it costs the town approximately \$40,000 to train a new policeman. Costs include the

POLICE

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POLICE*continued from page 1*

Police Academy (26 weeks), equipment, backfilling shifts to ensure two people are on at a time, plus any benefits the employee receives from the town.

After a short stint in Hopedale, officers have left for Framingham, Franklin, Milford, Mendon, and others.

“At the end of the day, there are variables that come into play as we make our career decisions and we [the Town

of Hopedale] have to be competitive,” said selectman Brian Keyes.

Town officials said they will address the issue during the next budget cycle.

Selectmen also appointed two new call firefighters including Alex Carchio of Mendon and Jennifer Richard of Milford, effective Dec. 1, 2020. Fire Chief Thomas Daige noted neither candidate was able to attend the selectmen’s meeting as they were at training which had started the day before.

Hopedale Commissioner Accused of Inappropriate Action and Voter Fraud

By THERESA KNAPP

After allegations were brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen, town counsel investigated the possibility that former Water and Sewer Commissioner Christine Burke had moved out of town but continued to serve on a town board. Allegations were also made that she registered to vote in another town.

In a written letter to the town, which he read aloud at the selectmen’s meeting on Dec. 21, 2020, Town Counsel Brian W. Riley of KP LAW in Boston said, “It appears as a matter of law that Ms. Burke vacated her seat on the Commission as of early May 2020 and she should not have participated in subsequent meetings as a commission member.”

Riley said it was his opinion there were no illegal votes or town business conducted during the time in question as any decision made was unanimous and the decisions would not be changed with or without her vote.

“I just didn’t see anything that would cause any kind of legal ramifications,” said Riley.

Ed Burt, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission, noted many of Burke’s accomplishments, thanked her for her many years of service, and said “the confusion in the details there are pretty unnecessary.”

“I think what you see in [town counsel]’s notes is there was ‘no harm, no foul’ but I believe it really overcomplicates the matter because, when Christine sold her house, she then rented in Hopedale so she was still resident right up to the point in time that she served on the Water and Sewer Commission,” said Burt. “At all times, she put the best interest of Hopedale and the community first and foremost in everything she did. Every minute of every second that she served was for the betterment of Hopedale”.

Newly-appointed selectman Glenda Hazard, whose first meeting was that evening, read into the record a response from Burke to “the Board and Selectman Keyes” dated Dec. 20, 2020.

In her response, Burke said, “I did not remove or abandon my residency in Hopedale. I sold my home on April 29, 2020. I had lived on Route 16 with a “For Sale” sign on my front lawn, there was nothing hidden or clandestine about the sale of my home...From and after the sale of my home, I continued to reside in Hopedale on Richard Road...I continue to receive mail in Hopedale. Again, I have not removed from the Town of Hopedale as the statute contemplates. I applied for an absentee ballot in October of 2020 so that I could participate in the Presidential election in November. It

was at that time that I resigned from my position on the Hopedale Water and Sewer Commission. Mr. [Jon] Delli Priscoli alleges in his Nov. 23, 2020 email to you and others that I filed a Change of Residence form on May 25, 2020 and voluntarily abandoned my residency.” She asked that the form be provided to her as she does not recall filling it out.

She continued, “I have never committed voter fraud as is alleged on Oct. 29, 2020 email to the Town Coordinator. Furthermore there have never been any “biased shenanigans” as you allege in your email to Jon Delli Priscoli on Nov. 24, 2020... In the future, the courtesy of a telephone call or an email might have saved you and the town much time and money spent pursuing this matter on behalf of the GURR [Grafton and Upton Railroad of which Delli Priscoli is the CEO].”

Town Counsel Riley acknowledged Burke’s response.

“I appreciate hearing that...I think she makes an excellent point. If she was living here throughout that period, there’s a good argument that she did not ‘remove from the town’ as that term is used in the statute so I think that’s good to get that on the record as well,” said Riley.

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Santa Claus Came to Town

Despite having to change days due to inclement weather, Santa was able to make his annual trip around town in a fire engine last

month. Kids of all ages came out in a socially distant way to welcome the Jolly fellow to town!



EXTENSION*continued from page 1*

At the selectmen's meeting on Dec. 21, 2020, Poholek asked for an additional year from the date of the original HCA (Feb. 19, 2020) to open the retail store, noting the process will be delayed if they file an appeal plus the process has been slowed due to COVID-19.

Selectmen agreed to grant a 12-month extension from the date of the meeting. The company now has until December 2021 to make the business operational at the original proposed address or to have a different location approved by the ZBA and amend the address in host community agreement.

Poholek told selectmen the company is considering an appeal on the Mellen Street application while, at the same time, researching an alternate site at 54 Hopedale Street, Unit 103, behind the Bancroft Memorial Library. He said the alternate site would be an ideal location because it is in a medical office building with a large parking lot, and they could consider tailoring the business to medical marijuana in the future.

Seeking an alternative site while proceeding with an appeal is not unusual, said town counsel Brian K. Riley of KP LAW of Boston who attended the selectmen's meeting. It was noted the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission does require a valid HCA to be in effect while an applicant seeks a license.

If the application is returned to the local ZBA, Green River Cannabis will have to address the issues raised in the denial including traffic, parking and the points

in between the stop sign and the proposed operation.

"Issues of traffic and parking are always a concern but can be resolved by working with the Town and the neighbors. We proposed flashing stop signs at the corner of [Route] 140 and Mellen Street along with off-duty police detail and an auxiliary parking lot, if necessary," Poholek told Hopedale Local Town Pages after the ZBA meeting. He also said the applicant had agreed to require pre-order appointments for the first two years of the Special Permit, and to reevaluate after that time. "The pre-order sales arrangement would have worked smoothly and was backed up by actual customer count based on the number of sales that were determined per hour by reservation only."

If the adult retail shop is changed to the proposed Hopedale Street location, Green River Cannabis might face opposition there as well. "I want it in the minutes that I am not in favor of 54 Hopedale Street," said selectman Lou Arcadi, noting its proximity to the library and schools.

While seeking an alternate site, selectmen urged the company to consider the locations of the other three cannabis companies which have valid Host Community Agreements, all signed in 2019:

MACA Industries' cultivation facility, 2 Condon Way

High Hopes retail shop, 4 Charlesview Road

Lifted Genetics cultivation facility, 6 Condon Way

"I welcome you to town. I want to partnership with you... but it has to be done prudently and in the right place and at the right time," said selectman Brian Keyes.

Hazard Wins Selectmen Seat

By SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Glenda A. Hazard secured the open board of selectmen seat and last month's special election.

Turnout was 861 registered voters, which is 19.7% of eligible voters. Hope Dale has a total of 4370 registered voters.

Three candidates vied for the vacant selectman's seat in the Dec. 8 election. The three candidates who were on the ballot were Michael Edward Collins, Kaplan Hasanoglu and Glenda A. Hazard.

Collins received 248 votes; Hasanoglu received 171 votes; and Hazard received 435 votes. There were two write-in votes cast and five left blank.

Mail-in and absentee ballots were processed during polling hours, with 1,042 mail-in ballots requested and 449 returned.

The special election, which comes on the heels of a rejected override leaving a budget gap that needs closing, was held Tuesday, Dec. 8. Voting was held in the Draper Gymnasium.

The seat, which Town Clerk Lisa Pedrolis said is only open through next year's annual town meeting in May, was vacated when former selectmen Thomas Wesley moved out of town this summer and had to resign.



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Eagle Scout Project Adds Ice Rescue Ladders to Hopedale Pond

Rohit Kaushik of Hopedale Troop 1 Boy Scouts considers the Hopedale Parklands and Pond one of the town's most treasured assets.

As a Hopedale resident, he and his family have enjoyed

boating and hiking around the pond. To attain his Eagle rank, he wanted to create a project that benefited all those who use the Hopedale Parklands and Pond.

Kaushik led the effort to conceptualize, construct, and deliver

three ice rescue ladders to the town to be available for this winter season.

These ladders are intended for first responders to use in case of an emergency. They are located at the pond on the back of the park benches.

Previously, there were no ice rescue ladders available for first responders. Ladders make any ice rescue quicker and safer for those involved. As always, in case of emergency, call 911 immediately.

The project took place at the Hopedale Bathhouse in October, while following COVID-19 guidelines.

The ladders were cut, sanded, painted, and assembled, with each volunteer wearing a face mask and socially distancing. "Hopedale Rescue Ladder Call 911" were stenciled on each ladder.

The enthusiastic volunteers included the Troop 1 Hopedale Boy Scouts and Scoutmasters Scott Seaver, Rob Jackson, Adam Fumia, and Charlie Finn.



Because of their hard work and diligence, the scouts completed the project as planned and on time.

Kaushik worked with the Hopedale Parks Commission on ladder specifications, rais-

ing funds from individuals and organizations, and coordinated the materials, worksite, and volunteers.

Kaushik extended special thanks to Don Howes of the Hopedale Park Commission, Jason McDonald of the Hopedale Girls Softball Association, Home Depot, Clark Hockenbury, Chandra Sunkara, and Kim Booth for their valuable contributions and guidance to the project.

Kaushik is currently Hopedale Troop 1 Boy Scouts' Senior Patrol Leader and has held many other leadership roles in the troop. He is a senior Information Technology student at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. Kaushik hopes to study Computer Science in college next year.



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

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

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

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Business
spotlight



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

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

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

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

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

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



Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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Looking back at 2020

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

The past year has been one like no other.

With a pandemic in full swing, people everywhere around the globe or forced to alter their lives. From masks and social distancing, to remote working and learning, people have forged forward and finish the year they will likely never forget. Hopedale, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, saw a lot of good deeds done by a lot of good people this year.

Let's take a look back at some of the stories we covered in 2020:

Mural Painted

Tracey Philips has been eager to find a way to weave a mural into Hopedale for some time.

The president of the Friends of Historic Hopedale said she saw the Fairy Walk as a perfect opportunity.

"I've wanted to see a mural in Hopedale for awhile now. My son was an artist and a few years



ago I volunteered in his memory with Pow Wow Worcester (part of a world wide network of festivals that brings mural artists together to paint murals in different cities). Since then I've really been looking for a way to make one happen here in town. The Hopedale Fairy Walk seemed like a great way to make that happen," she said. "Since the ... walk would have been in its

fourth year, it seemed like a good time to add something new and special to the day."

So Philips partnered with the Hopedale Park Commission, and launched a mural contest. It was for 15 – 21-year-olds living in Worcester County. They were asked to submit their design ideas for a wing mural.



Covid Affects Voting

Neither the pandemic nor the lack of contested races stopped Hopedale residents from turning out to vote in the town's annual election last month.

Town Clerk Lisa Pedroli said

LOOK BACK

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Under emergency orders issued this spring, law firms in Massachusetts have the ability to witness and notarize estate planning documents virtually, so you can stay warm, safe and healthy and gain the peace of mind that comes with providing guidance, direction and securing your legacy for your family.

After you've reached the age of 18, no one automatically has the authority to make health or financial decisions for you, not even a spouse. It is essential that you have the legal documents in

place naming a person or people who can make decisions on your behalf. These disability planning documents, the Durable Power of Attorney, the Health Care Proxy/Living Will, the HIPAA Authorization form an essential part of your estate plan.

Almost half of Americans 55+ don't have a will, and data shows that these Americans are at the greatest risk for serious complications and death from COVID-19. Younger Americans are less likely to have a will, but because the pandemic has impacted people of all ages, its essentials for everyone to create or update their estate plan, no matter your age. Estate planning is essential whether or not there is a pandemic, but they are critical to have now.

Having a will and or trust in place allows you to control who manages your assets and cares for your loved ones if you lose capacity or pass away. You're able to designate guardianship for minor children and provide guidance for their care.

If you have an estate plan in place, it's essential that you review it and update it to reflect your current wishes and the current law. 86% of estate plans don't work when you need them to. Common reasons are that the plans are outdated, failing to keep up with the law, or failing to have the right people in positions of authority. If your will or trust is 15 years old, just think about all the things that have changed in your life in the last 15 years! Add to that changes in the law and you're in need of an update for sure.

Our office is offering virtual webinars to learn more about estate planning and how it can help you meet your goals and objectives, protect your legacy and help your family. We also offer virtual (and limited in-person) consultations to understand more about your goals and objectives and implement or update your estate plan.

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LOOK BACK

continued from page 6

Not even a pandemic could stop the annual tradition of the Hopedale Summer program.

there was actually an increase in voters this year. Last year, 245 registered voters turned out; this year 340 turned out.

Despite the changes to voting procedures this year, with absentee and mail-in voting encouraged, as well as the date of the elections moving, Pedroli said there were no real issues.

"There were no problems, just many write-in votes [to count]," she said, referring to the six open seats that had no one running to fill them.

Pandemic no match for summer fun



The program, which has been around for 60+ years, had a few adjustments because of COVID-19, but still kept kids entertained last month as it has every year.

"Throughout this time, there have been some changes, but the very basics have remained the same and have been part of Hopedale's Summers for awhile. There are signatures from young adults who ran this program in the Bandstand that date back to 1982," said Jennie Holland, one of five students who ran the program this summer.

Fairy Walk Fun

The Hopedale Fairy Walk Reverse Parade, challenged by the new normal, was a hit.

So many turned out, in fact, changes had to be made on the fly. As the route started filling that morning, the organizers had to change how things were happening to be able to meet social distancing requirements.

In the end, have a one family at a time come to the corner to take pictures from a distance worked out fine with no complaints.

New normal, a little normalcy

Thanks to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Hopedale schools are opened a little bit

later this year and looked a little bit different.

Like every other school districts in the state, big changes had to happen to allow the 2020-2021 school year begin.

After much deliberation, the decision was made to start back with a hybrid model in Hopedale.

Unlike the spring, students are graded on their work, and were expected to attend classes whether they were in person or remote.

All staff and students were required to wear face coverings.

A Failed Override

The fiscal 2021 budget took a hit when voters rejected a tax

override by 142 votes.

The override would have bridged a gap in the operating budget of roughly \$1.3 million. It also would have been the second override in as many years. According to Town Administrator Diana Schindler, unlike like many other things, the deficit is not related to the current pandemic.

"Although we now face additional fiscal challenges operating [for an extended time] in COVID conditions. Fortunately, we have COVID funding to mitigate."

And Eye to the Future

The town of Hopedale is working with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission —CMRPC— to create a master plan.

Principal Planner

Ron Barron, said the process will happen in two phases: phase 1 will be completed by fall of 2021; phase to completion will depend on funding.

"This plan is set up as a two-phase process. This phase will cover the Land Use, Population and Housing and Economic Development elements and will take approximately one year.

"Phase two will focus on the Natural and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Transportation and Circulation and Facilities and Public Services.

Additionally, the town has applied for funding through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to complete the Natural and Cultural Resources and Open Space and Recreation elements," he said.

"Having a master plan allows communities to set clear, actionable objectives for achieving its stated vision," he said.



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Holiday Contest Lights Up Hopedale

By SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Instead of strolling through a winter wonderland in Hopedale this year, residents took to their cars to enjoy beautiful lighting displays—and vote, of course!

There were four winners out of the 40 houses entered into the holiday lighting contest last month. Special judge appearances were made by Santa, members of the fire department, members of the police department and members of Friends of Historic Hopedale.

- 1st Place: 53 Inman St.
- 2nd Place: 221 Dutcher St.
- 3rd Place: 53 Mellen St.
- People’s Choice Award: 37 Freedom St.

The annual Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll would have been in its 10th year, but the Friends of Historic Hopedale had to switch things up.

“We have come up with a few other ways to celebrate the season safely,” said Tracey Philips, Friends of Historic Hopedale.

The new tradition was open to residents and businesses located in Hopedale.

Philips was pleased with how the event turned out.

“Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to all of the contestants. We heard one thing over and over in the voting process: You all made it soooo hard to pick! Thank you to all of our voters! Thank you to our sponsors! And thank you again to the members of the Friends of Historic Hopedale, Santa, the Hopedale Fire Department and the Hopedale Police Department for helping us make the tough choices!” she said.



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Do you remember when phones were party lines? Can you build one?

CHRIS ROBERT

I am the founder of Webster Museums, a 501 c (3) non-profit that is developing a teaching museum called the Samuel Slater Experience. The museum presents the story of Samuel Slater, the “Father of The American Industrial Revolution,” and the boomtown of Webster, Massachusetts, which resulted from of Slater’s mill operations. The time period covered is 1780 through 1910.



I and museum curator Olivia Spratt want to include in the educational process a working early 1900’s telephone demonstration. While we have collected some very old phones, they are not functional. We need to find someone to help us build a working model as described below.

The model system would include two phones and a plug-in switchboard. Each phone would be on separate eight-party-line lines. Three students would be selected: student A makes a call, student B runs the switchboard, and student C receives the call.

There would be 30 to 40 students in a class watching the demonstration so we would have to have a modern amplifier so they could all hear, but the sound would be the realistic old crackling phone sound.

Can you help us or know someone who could? We need to hire someone to help us build it.

Contact Olivia at ospratt@samuelslaterexperience.org or call the museum at 508-461-2955.



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cbdreleafmedway@gmail.com

Bancroft Memorial Library - Library Column /January 2021 Update

January Holidays

The Library will be CLOSED the following days this month:

Friday, January 1 and Saturday, January 2 (New Year's Day)
Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Updated Hours in January

The Bancroft Memorial Library is suspending walk-in hours at this time. However, Library Appointment and Curbside Pickup Times have expanded to the following hours:

Library Appointment and Curbside Pickup Times

Monday and Wednesday 1pm-6:30pm
Tuesday and Thursday 10am-3:30pm
Friday 10am-1pm
Saturday 11am-1pm

Adult Programming in January

It's a New Year. A time of renewal and new beginnings. Join us for inspiring programming to help you nurture yourself and tap into your creativity as we wait for spring.



Throughout January and February, **join Marise Nazarro for Gentle Yoga**, a pre-recorded program available on the Bancroft Memorial Library YouTube Channel. A new program will be released each Monday morning at 9am for 8 weeks, beginning January 4. Episodes are available for viewing later.

Jana Milbocker from Enchanted Gardens in Holliston, MA, will present a workshop called **Pots with Pizzazz** on Tuesday, January 12 at 7 pm. Jazzy containers are the "jewelry" of a garden, elevating it from "good" to "great"! Learn how to brighten shady spots with pops of color, create focal points for vistas and welcoming entry gardens with stunning container

groupings. From whimsical to grand, these pots with pizzazz from private and public gardens will inspire and teach you to design your own potted masterpieces! Get inspired! Call or email the library to register for this workshop.

Noted author and writing instructor **Lara Tupper will present the writing workshop "I Remember: Writing Childhood Stories"** on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm. Childhood tends to remain a vivid time, no matter where we find ourselves now. In this relaxed (and user-friendly!) writing workshop, we'll recall memories from early days and hear recollections from others. Using Joe Brainard's whimsical memoir *I Remember* as a model, we'll tap into tales from our youth and consider how these experiences have shaped us. No prior writing experience necessary. All are welcome to attend. Call or email the library to register for this workshop.

Ongoing Monthly Library Events

Hopedale Zoom Book Group

The Bancroft Memorial Library Book Discussion Group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. We are currently holding the book discussions on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the Zoom book discussion by computer, ipad, cell phone or landline. Just leave your email contact information at the Circulation Desk and we will add your name to our Zoom invitation list. You will receive a Zoom

invitation on the day before the meeting. The library staff will be happy to place a hold on the title for you if needed.

Welcome to a New Year of Book Discussions!

Join us as we discuss January's book and share other titles we are reading. Our January Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6 at 1:00pm to discuss *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz. "Horowitz's unusual stand-alone combines two books in one—the first, set in 1950s England, is a wonderfully written Agatha Christie-style whodunit complete with vicar, village, and vengeance. The second, set in modern times, stars an editor who must solve a mystery surrounding that whodunit, as her publishing house's fortunes rest upon its success." -- CWMARS catalog

February's book will be *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love* by Dani Shapiro. "In a goofy mood in spring 2016, she submitted her DNA to a website for analysis and discovered that her father was not her biological father. What results is an exploration of family secrets,

a painful rebuilding of her sense of self, and an understanding of how we manage whatever life tosses our way." --from 2018 Library Journal review.

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

Snowman Kits

Do you want to build a snowman at the Bancroft Memorial Library? Come on down after a snowy day. Take a kit from the Children's Room and build a snowman on the Library grounds. We can't wait to see your snowmen!

Winter Crafts

New winter-themed take and make craft kits will be available every Monday in January on the Curbside Table.

For updates throughout the month, friend us on Facebook, sign up at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/subscribe> to receive library news via email, and be sure to add the Mobile App to your phone for up-to-date reminders. The library webpage is - <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.



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What does Hopedale mean to you? What would you like to see in the town's future? Hopedale is currently developing a Master Plan to help guide the town for the next 10 - 20 years based on your input.

Come to the Visioning Workshop on:
Sunday January 31, 2021 2pm - 4pm {Virtual Participation}

Help us create our "Vision Statement" that will shape the plan's goals and recommendations.

Sign up for the workshop on envisionhopedale.com to receive the Zoom details.

Living Healthy

Milford -Franklin Eye Center Decades of Service to the Community And a New Provider in 2021

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 8 physicians and Optometrists. In January of 2021 Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen, OD will join our team in our state-of-the art medical offices in Franklin and Milford. Dr. Nguyen is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family.

With offices located in Milford and Franklin and a support staff of 50, we are proud to be the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care institutions in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No more need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Five experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 3 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon and the area's only full-time specialist in corneal diseases. Having completed his training in Ophthalmology at University of Rochester and his fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the prestigious Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Iowa, Dr. Kaldawy served as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston University where he was Director of the Cornea and External Disease program

and trained fellows and residents in Ophthalmology. Some of his trainees are now in academic and private practices in Massachusetts and around the world. Dr. Kaldawy published research articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and has been invited as a guest speaker to many prestigious academic programs in the US and around the world including University of New York, Stanford University and University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Kaldawy is proud to be the first surgeon in central Massachusetts and among a handful of surgeons in the State to have performed DSAEK corneal transplantation. With special interest in cataract surgery, Dr. Kaldawy has performed tens of thousands of procedures and was the first surgeon in the area to offer the highly advanced accommodating implants. Dr. Kaldawy is the first and only surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

Dr. Hatch is the only fellowship trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the area, and is a skilled surgeon with training in the latest techniques for straightening misaligned eyes. Dr. Hatch earned bachelors and master's degrees in engineering from Boston University and Dartmouth College. He completed his medical degree at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1988, followed by residency in Ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship in Pediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology at Duke University. Returning to his home state in 1993, Dr. Hatch joined the Milford-Franklin Eye Center where he

focuses on comprehensive pediatric and adult ophthalmology and adult strabismus.

Dr. Lashkari is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist as well as a scientist at the Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School. He is also a part-time Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lashkari completed a Medical-Surgical Fellow in Vitreoretinal disease at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Ahmed graduated Magna cum Laude with Honors from Brown University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She then pursued her medical degree at Medical College of Georgia followed by a medical internship at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She completed her residency in Ophthalmology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA followed by a Cornea and Anterior Segment Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. Her specific interests include ocular surface disease, complex cataracts and corneal transplantation.

Dr. Perriello Consigli received her Bachelor of Science degree from Clark University in 1987. She went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of

Optometry in 1991. Dr. Consigli has over twenty five years of experience, spending several years in private practice. In February 2019, Dr. Consigli joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages. She is proficient in routine eye care, contact lens fitting, and diagnosing and treating various eye disease.

Dr. Adams, graduated from John Carroll University, Bachelors of Science, summa cum laude, in 1995. He completed his Masters in Biochemistry from The Ohio State University in 1997. In 2003 he received his Doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Adams has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease and laser refractive surgery.

Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen joins Milford-Franklin Eye Center from the New England Carpenters Benefit Fund – Vision Center, where she served as Head of Optometry. She has over 9 years of experience in comprehensive eye exams for adult, geriatric, pediatric, and special needs populations. Her experience includes performing contact lens fitting and managing contact lens complications. Dr. Nguyen is also experienced in glasses fitting and lens edging. Her charitable activities include

participating in Boston Cares program and the Boston Special Olympics.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are different. We focus on excellent and advanced eye care and treat our patients as if each and every one is family. We are from the community, most of us live in the community and our focus is to serve the community. You will see us in the office, at the local supermarket and in the ER at 1 AM if there is a need for our care. Our focus is you, your vision and excellent results. We are available, in your backyard and proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. We offer after-hours, same day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have a new management focused on quality customer care. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery and now to even serve you better a new provider: Welcome Dr. Nguyen. Please stop by and say Hi...We are here to serve you.

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What if I missed the Medicare Open Enrollment Period? Can I still make a change to my 2021 coverage?

People who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan have until March 31, 2021 to switch to another MA plan or to Original Medicare with or without a stand-alone prescription drug plan (Part D) during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MAOEP).

The MA OEP occurs each year from January 1 through March 31, and it is only available to people who have a Medicare Advantage plan. One change can be made during this period, which will take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll. For example, if you switch to a new Medicare Advantage Plan in February, your new coverage begins March 1.

Changes that can be made during this period include switching to:

- a different MA plan with drugcoverage
- a different MA plan without drugcoverage
- Original Medicare and a Part D planor
- Original Medicare without a Part Dplan
- This is an opportunity to make a change if you find tour coverage is not working for you; for example, one of you doctors no longer accepts your plan.

Other news:

For those with Prescription Advantage or “Extra Help”; these programs help withpaying for your prescription drugs. They also offer a Special Enrollment Period allowing you to change your prescription drug plan if needed outside of

OpenEnrollment.

Those with Prescription Advantage can do this only once each year.

Those with “Extra Help” can change once eachquarter.

The Massachusetts Medicare Savings Program pays your monthly Part B Premium thatis deducted from your Social Security income. The 2021 monthly Part B premium willbe \$148.50 in 2021. You will also be eligible for Extra Help from Social Security to help pay your prescription drug costs. You may be eligible if your income and assets are at or below these values.

Individual GrossIncome:
\$1,755/month
Assets:\$15,720

Couple GrossIncome:
\$2,371/month
Assets: \$23,600



On behalf of Hopedale Seniors, we thank the many community members for their donations to the Council on Aging and the Hopedale Friends of Elders. We are grateful to live in such a kind and generous community. All of you have made this challenging period a little easier.

Dr. Vincent J. Arone

Robert Babine

Jim Carroll

Arthur Hampton

Jeanne Heath

Mike & Libby Loftus

Wayne & Linda Lord

Patrick Maloney

Matthew Masnik

Nancy Mosher

Cathy Valentine

Katherine Wright




If you want to take advantage of any of these opportuni-

ties to change your plans or be screened for assistance call your local Senior Center at (508)634-2208 and ask to speak with a SHINE Counselor. They can talk you through the process and discuss any consequences of changing plans.

The SHINE Program (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), is federally funded and state administered through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Program annually certifies over 700 counselors statewide, that provide, unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects Medicare, related private insurance products and financial assistance programs

The Central Mass SHINE Program office 508-422-9931

Visit us at our Central Mass Websitewww.shinema.org for useful information.

Meals on Wheels - Tri-Valley, Inc. - January 2021									
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Menus are Subject to Change Meals are based on a No Added Salt (3,000-4,000 milligram diet) for healthy older adults. If you have a special concern regarding sodium, contact our Nutritionist for guidance on managing your intake to meet your dietary requirements. Na+ = Sodium mg = milligrams Breakdown Includes 125mg Na+ for milk				Dudley 508-949-6640, Franklin 508-520-1422, Milford 508-478-8102, Northbridge 508-234-2002, Southbridge 774-289-9438, Spencer 508-885-5767, Sturbridge 508-347-5063, Sutton 508-234-0703, Upton 508-529-8094, Uxbridge 774-482-6174, West Brookfield 508-867-1411				1 New Year's Day No Meal Served 	
4 Swedish Meatballs Garlic Mashed Potatoes Peas & Carrots Fresh Fruit Pumpnickel Bread		5 Garlic Herbed Chicken Cornbread Stuffing Roasted Broccoli Loma Doone Cookies Whole Wheat Bread		6 Stuffed Pepper Casserole Mashed Potatoes Carrots Vanilla Pudding Diet = SF Vanilla Pudding Peasant White Bread		7 Potato Crunch Fish Wild Rice Mixed Vegetables Tarter Sauce Pineapple Marble Rye Bread		8 Pork Rib-i-que with BBQ Sauce Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Fruited Ambrosia Sandwich Roll	
Cal: 725 Na+: 700mg		Cal: 753 Na+: 1026mg		Cal: 767 Na+: 766mg Diet Cal: 697 Na+: 741mg		Cal: 725 Na+: 904mg		Cal: 790 Na+: 1148mg	
11 Chicken Pot Pie Mashed Potatoes Country Blend Vegetables Apple Cinnamon Grahams Biscuit		12 Sloppy Joes* Steak Cut French Fries Jardiniera Vegetables Fresh Fruit Sandwich Roll		13 Fish with Crumb Topping Lemon Seasoned Rice Roasted California Blend Chocolate Pudding Diet = SF Choc. Pudding Marble Rye Bread		14 Baked Virginia Ham* w/ Pineapple Cherry Sauce Mashed Sweet Potatoes Peas Baked Cinnamon Pears Dinner Roll		15 Chicken Cranberry Salad Pasta Salad Thres Bean Salad Strawberries Pumpnickel Bread	
Cal: 770 Na+: 876mg		Cal: 714 Na+: 1119mg		Cal: 764 Na+: 736mg Diet Cal: 704 Na+: 726mg		Cal: 672 Na+: 1125mg		Cal: 807 Na+: 895mg	
18 Martin Luther King Day No Meal Served 		19 HIGH SODIUM DAY Hot Dog* Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Fresh Orange Hot Dog Bun Mustard		20 Ranch Chicken* Rice Pilaf Spinach Oreos Marble Rye Bread		21 Spaghetti & Meatballs Green Beans Pear Crisp Diet = Pears French Bread		22 Braised Beef Gemelli Pasta Broccoli Peaches Italian Bread	
		Cal: 791 Na+: 1310mg		Cal: 719 Na+: 1107mg		Cal: 825 Na+: 590mg Diet Cal: 708 Na+: 546mg		Cal: 822 Na+: 446mg	
25 Chicken Pesto* Red Bliss Potatoes Scandinavian Vegetables Fresh Fruit Corn Muffin		26 HIGH SODIUM MEAL Burger with Chili & Cheese Green Beans Sweet Potato Fries Strawberries Sandwich Roll		27 American Chop Suey* Broccoli & Red Peppers Bread Pudding Italian Bread		28 Roast Pork Loin with Gravy Mashed Potatoes Brussels Sprouts Cheesecake Mousse Marble Rye Bread		29  Frittata O'Brien Potatoes Stewed Tomatoes Mixed Fruit French Bread	
Cal: 770 Na+: 830mg		Cal: 830 Na+: 1396mg		Cal: 688 Na+: 1197mg		Cal: 728 Na+: 1093mg		Cal: 727 Na+: 761mg	

Hopedale Properties, LLC Focuses on Future for Draper Complex

Since the mid-19th century, the Draper Factory has been a focal point for the Town of Hopedale's history. As the Town of Hopedale looks toward its future, the 80-acre, former 1.8-million square foot Draper complex will once again become a key area of consideration.

Hopedale Properties, LLC has owned the sprawling Draper campus since the 1990s. Since purchasing the property, Philip Shwachman, Principal of Hopedale Properties, LLC and First American Realty, Inc., has engaged in a number of efforts to redevelop and re-purpose the property.

In August 2020, Hopedale Properties, LLC, began a new phase of abatement and demolition efforts within a portion of the remaining 1 million square foot complex. This work was commenced due to a number of significant structural and environmental conditions that posed safety concerns to the surrounding neighborhood. Since commencement of these abatement and demolition efforts, new structural concerns were identified in remaining portions of the complex.

Due to the severity of these building deficiencies, Hopedale Properties has informed the Hopedale Board of Selectmen of its intentions to proceed with full demolition of the remaining structures on Hopedale and Freedom Streets.

"We are optimistic for the future prospects of this key development site in the heart of Hopedale and very pleased with the enthusiastic support from local residents and community leaders alike," said Phil Shwachman of First American Realty.

As part of Hopedale Properties effort in re-envisioning the property, Shwachman has engaged the services of the Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC) to assist in a Master Planning process, including a market study and determination of feasible

market options for the historic site. In addition to the WBDC's work, the Town of Hopedale is working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to complete a comprehensive update of the community's Master Plan, documenting the community's needs and how these needs can be addressed.

"This redevelopment initiative has been a long time in the making; and just as Draper Company was a vital component of Hopedale's economic past, the town is excited to be partnered with Hopedale Properties, WBDC, and CMRPC, to vision and plan for an even more diverse, equally vibrant future, even in the face of these unprecedented times," added Diana Schindler, Hopedale Town Administrator.

The initial findings from the market study conducted on behalf of Hopedale Properties, LLC identified a number of potential uses, including multi-family and senior residential, industrial/flex space, open space, and destination and/or cluster retail opportunities.

"The decision for Hopedale Properties to pursue complete demolition did not come easily," said Craig Blais, President & CEO of the WBDC. "While it is difficult to reckon the loss of this historic gem, it is to the larger community's benefit to focus the time, effort and resources on future development opportunities within the site."

Abatement and demolition of the first portion of the Draper complex effort along Hopedale Street has been completed and the asbestos abatement of the next portion along Freedom Street has been completed. According to Hopedale Properties, LLC, the abatement and demolition of the site is expected to be completed by the end of June 2021.

Celebrate the New Year with a free

Grab and Go Meal

Wednesday January 13, 2021

Hopedale Sr. Center

11:30 am

Pick from one of three options:

⇒ *Pick-up your meal at 43 Hope St. (Sr. Center)*

⇒ *Pick-up your meal at Griffin-Dennett Housing (Hopedale St.)*

⇒ *Request Home Delivery of your meal*

Menu:

Fish with Crumb Topping, Lemon Seasoned Rice

Roasted California Blend Vegetables, Chocolate Pudding

Marble Rye Bread

**Sign-up required by 1/8/2021*



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Open House/Informational Session December 17, 2020 @ 7:30PM *masks are required*ZOOM Link also available on application or call Susan Jacobson @ 508-440-2812

Applications accepted: Through January 14, 2020

Housing Lottery: January 18, 2021 @ 7PM via Zoom Please call Susan Jacobson @ 508-440-2812 for Zoom Information or see Zoom Links on application

Household of 1 - \$64,700, Household of 2 - \$77,000, Household of 3 - \$86,650, Household of 4 - \$96,250

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE

Maximum Asset limit for this development \$75,000

Mortgage Pre-Approval

Other Restriction Apply

To apply, please contact

Susan Jacobson, Norfolk Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, 508-440-2812

Application can be found at www.norfolk.ma.us, under "What's New"

Application can be sent via scan, fax or can be picked up by contacting Susan Jacobson and making an appointment to pick up at Norfolk Town Hall by appointment only

email contact: sjacobson@norfolk.ma.us

Use and resale restrictions apply



Sports

Hopedale Soccer finishes 6-2-1

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Although it was a season like no other, one in which the athletes had to not only take part in an abbreviated campaign, but it was also one that endured numerous rule changes. Despite the uniqueness to the season the Hopedale boys' soccer team still managed to do alright.

Hopedale finished 6-2-1 in their pod and quite possibly could have been even better, but the squad was forced to shut down the final two weeks of the season due to a couple of COVID-19 cases on the team. The Blue Raiders went 2-0 against both Whitinsville Christian and Blackstone Millville, split their two games with Nipmuc, went 1-0-1 against Grafton and lost its only contest to Blackstone Valley Tech. The team never got to take the field against Northbridge due to the COVID-19 outbreaks.

While the season had a different look on the field Hopedale Coach Greg LaBossiere was optimistic coming in with the number of starters he had returning.

"Obviously, it was an adjustment, but we're a possession team so we were still able to play our type of game," the Blue Raider Coach said. "Our team is made up of a lot of skilled players so that helped us a lot. The physical part of our game was challenged, but our defense got things moving out of our zone and we saw some pretty good results despite all new rules."

As they entered the 2020, season Hopedale had eight seniors returning to the field and having been gone deep into the Divi-



sion 4 Central Tournament the last three years the squad was hoping to finally get past Bromfield. Hopedale was sent packing thanks to Bromfield 6-1 in the Finals in 2017; lost in overtime 1-0 in the 2018 Semis and 2-1 last fall once again in 2019.

"The team was ready to go this year," LaBossiere said. "They were upset that there were no playoffs this season as they wanted to prove that they can beat Bromfield. Instead they had to play what they were given and made the best of it."

Leading the Blue Raiders were senior captains Trevor Hibbert, Tyler Small, John McDonough, Sean Ryan, Amer Hukanovich as well as junior captain DJ Tucker. Hibbert was the team's leading scorer with 10 goals and 4 assists, while Tucker was second with 3 goals and 15 helpers. In addition to the cap-



tains supplying much of the goal scoring, Hopedale also had a couple of younger players who stepped their game up to assist in the offense.

Steve Marchionni, who plays midfield for Hopedale and never shows up on the stat sheet was a key contributor in the center of the field, battling on every play. Brayden Kelleher, a transfer from Holliston High School, played an outstanding back for the squad. Not only did the first year Blue Raider help the team with his defensive play, but he also provided

some offensive skills that netted him a few goals.

Senior Kiro Bebeway and junior Will Parker split time in net for the Blue Raiders. Bebeway saw the majority of minutes as the Hopedale keeper, but Parker, who hadn't played goalie since junior high school, is Hopedale's future.

"Parker is a baseball player as well as a friend of DJ's and had left soccer after junior high to play football," LaBossiere said. "DJ knew that we would have no goalie going forward after this

season so he convinced will to come out and play for us."

Junior Everett Hava was a big surprise on the field this past season. Having not played too much during his sophomore campaign he worked on his skills during the off-season and came into camp ready to contribute.

Having once again put together another successful season LaBossiere will be saying goodbye to eight departed seniors and look to his nine returning juniors to carry the team next fall.

Tucker will be relied on heavily to provide the team with the scoring. According to the Coach, Tucker is a game changer and a lot of the team's in the league are aware of what he brings to the table each and every game. With

that said, LaBossiere will be looking for someone to step up and take some of the burden away from him.

"Trevor will definitely be our biggest loss and his production will be missed," the Blue raider Coach said. "However, having the nine juniors back, as well as a bunch of sophomores who saw some action this year, we'll be ready to go once the season begins."

SOCCER

continued on page 15



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SOCCER*continued from page 14*

With so many things being adjusted this fall Hopedale may have to face another adjustment next season as the MIAA will be realignment of the schools, which may move the Blue Raiders

from Division 4 to Division 5. We'll just have to wait and see, but it shouldn't bother the team as we've already seen them tackle the Covid-19 adjustments with relative ease.

*Courtesy photos
by Steve Bassignani*



HHS Alumni Association Announces Scholarship Availability for 2021 and 2020 Graduates

The Hopedale High School Alumni Association is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted from members of the Class of 2021 for both Alumni and Horne Memorial Scholarships. Two Alumni Scholarships of \$2,000 each and five of \$1,000 each, as well as two Horne Memorial Scholarships of \$3,000 each and six of \$5,000 each, are available.

These scholarships will be awarded on merits of character, leadership, academic achievement, service to the community, special achievements, and financial need. One application covers both 2021 scholarships. The selection committee will meet in April, and recipients will be notified at graduation exercises.

Application forms can be found at the Hopedale Jr. Sr. High School Guidance Office, on the High School's website,



or on the HHS Alumni website (hopedale-alumni.org), and sent to: Hopedale High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25, Hopedale, MA 01747. Without exception, only applications received by April 1, 2021 will be considered.

In addition, ten Horne Memorial Scholarships of \$3,000 each are available to members of the Class of 2020. All 2020 graduates currently attending college are welcome to apply as follows:

Send a personal letter to: Hopedale High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25, Hopedale, MA 01747, de-

tailoring why you would like to be considered – based on the qualities of character, leadership, academic achievement, service, special achievements, and financial need.

From the Registrar's Office at your college or university, attach a "Proof of Enrollment" document for the Spring 2021 semester.

Attach a transcript showing your most recent Grade Point Average. A minimum GPA of 3.0 (B) is desired, but applicants will be considered on their overall merits.

Include an e-mail address in your letter.

Without exception, only applications received by April 1, 2021 - meeting all criteria listed - will be considered. Selections will be made in April, and notification letters will be emailed to recipients by the selection committee.



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Girl Scout Cookies

The Hopedale Girls Scouts will hold a drive-by cookie booth at the high school on Saturdays between January 15 and March 10, weather permitting. The Girl Scouts will hold their annual cookie sale between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and all practices will be COVID compliant. For more information, visit the Historic Hopedale Girl Scouts' Facebook page.



Hopedale scouts at a February 2020 Girl Scout Cookie Booth. Source: Historic Hopedale Girl Scouts Facebook page

Hopedale Troop 1 Boy Scouts Annual Christmas Tree Pickup



January 9th and 10th
\$10.00 suggested donation for Trees and/or Wreaths

Trees and wreaths need to be outside, next to the curb by 8:00 am, either day.

For more information, please call 508-794-9971

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