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Town lawsuit against Railroad dismissed with prejudice, bonding process begins

Land Court officially dismissed case after agreement reached through mediation

By THERESA KNAPP

The Land Court has dismissed the lawsuit the Town of Hopedale filed against the Grafton and Upton Railroad in Land Court in January. The dispute brought by the town attempted to exercise its right of first refusal,

as voted by an October 2020 special town meeting, on a 155-acre parcel at 364 West Street.

GURR purchased the land just days before an October 2020 special town meeting voted to buy the land that is just above the Hopedale Pond

resource area and near the Upton Town Forest.

The lawsuit was dismissed "with prejudice" which means the court has made a final determination on the merits

LAWSUIT

continued on page 2

Anonymous donor gifts \$21k for playground improvements

Funds will repair equipment at Hopedale Town Park playground

By THERESA KNAPP

The town has received a \$21,000 anonymous donation for repairs and improvements to the Hopedale Town Park playground.

Don Howes, Chair of the Park Commission, told the Board of Selectmen in February the money will be used to make repairs to the larger climbing structure, replace two or three deck plates in the

PLAYGROUND

continued on page 2



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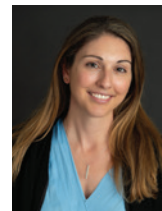
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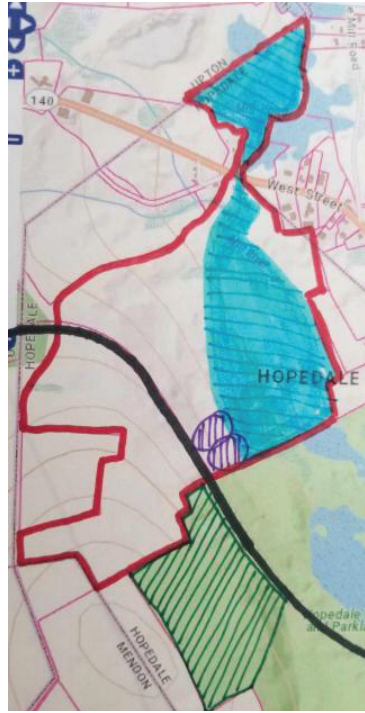
LAWSUIT

continued from page 1

of the case and the town is not allowed to bring another lawsuit against GURR based on the same facts.

At its meeting on Feb. 22, the Board of Selectmen voted to “request treasurer begin process of bonding for acquisition of land known as 364 West Street/364 West Street adj[acent].”

Chairman Brian Keyes said the board has asked the town’s Water & Sewer Commission to add an agenda item to one of its upcoming meetings to discuss a cost-sharing agreement with the GURR.



Part of the January settlement agreement between the town and the railroad is a cost-sharing agreement in which, if new water resources are explored, the Water & Sewer Commission would have the opportunity to split expenses with GURR if it so chooses. If the town decides not to do so, the agreement says each party should be responsible for its own costs.

Selectmen voted unanimously to begin the bonding process.

“We want to start the process with the Treasurer for the bonding so when we get the final title work...we’re prepared to have that funding available to do the closing,” said Keyes, adding “We have to wait for the final, final title search to go through.”

PLAYGROUND

continued from page 1

smaller structure, and replace the metal slide.

“It’s our job to take this money that’s available and bring the park up to safe standards as we did last year with the toddler



An anonymous donation will fund repairs to the Hopedale Town Park playground. Credit: Theresa Knapp

swing. There’s no doubt the town park gets a tremendous amount of traction and usage.”

Howes told the Board of Selectmen the donation comes with very few restrictions.

“The design of this upgrade is up to the Commission. We have free reign to do the upgrades and repairs that we planned to do,” Howes said, adding he hopes to gather volunteer labor on a Saturday to do the work.

Fire Department presents plan to double staffing and triple ambulance receipts

By **THERESA KNAPP**

The Hopedale Fire Department has applied for a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire, Emergency Response (SAFER) grant which, if awarded, could double the department’s current staffing.

The Board of Selectmen approved the application in a meeting in March where Fire Chief Tom Daige said the grant would allow the hiring of eight additional Career Firefighters whose salaries and benefits would be covered by the grant for three years. The additional hires would provide enough staffing for four people per shift.

“This would be a win-win for us as a community, having the staffing at four firefighters per shift which greatly increases fire protection. You could do a lot more on a fire engine with four [firefighters] than two,” Daige said, adding there are currently four to six call firefighters who are in line to move to full-time.

The SAFER grant program is a federal program administered through the Department of Homeland Security under the authority of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

According to www.fema.gov, SAFER grants “provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters or to rehire firefighters that have been laid off, and to recruit and/or retain volunteer firefighters...[and] assists local fire department with staffing and deployment capabilities so they may respond to emergencies whenever they occur, assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.”

Daige stressed the department’s main objective is to protect the residents of Hopedale, and the grant would provide for coverage 24 hours a day.

The grant could also help the town increase its ambulance receipts reserve account.

He said that, with the proposed increased staffing, Hopedale could then offer inter-facility transport to certain towns, with a planned start at Milford Hospital. Currently, two private companies provide the service from the Emergency Department where patients often wait up to three hours for an ambulance

AMBULANCE

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Chuck Tashjian

Editorial
Susan Manning

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Advertising Sales Manager
Jen Schofield
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Multi Media Sales Consultant
Jeremy Wardwell
413-204-5296
jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com

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Michelle McSherry
Kim Vasseur

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Your Money, Your Independence

Rising Rates, Sinking Values: Are Bonds Dead?

Interest rates are rising due to expectations of better economic growth.

Economists expected inflation to perk up this spring due to higher prices from pent-up demand. Still, they don't expect the increase to be sharp enough or sustain long enough for the Fed to take action. In fact, the Fed reiterated in March rate hikes are unlikely through 2023, confirming a willingness to let inflation and U.S. economy run hot.

Over the last 6 months, investors have cooled on bonds, causing rates to move higher, take 10-year US Treasury rising from 0.66% to 1.73% ending March 19, 2021. Beyond affecting new mortgages and refinancing, investment portfolios with bonds are feeling an impact.

The Barclays US Aggregate Bond Market Index which returned +7.5% for 2020. This year through 3/19 it is down -3.6%, aligning to how bond performance works: when rates go up, bond prices go down.

While it's early, understand since 1976 this bond market index has been negative just 3 times in 44 years, with the worst return being -2.9% (1994).

So do you abandon bonds?

The better question: why do you hold bonds?

Stability during market stress.

Consider last spring, Treasuries continued to maintain their status as a safe haven during market stress. Other alternatives that could fill that role? In a month (2/13/20 - 3/13/20), Bitcoin lost -52%, Gold down -5%, while Treasuries rose.

Aid in lower portfolio volatility. Risk control and income for those depending on regular distributions from their portfolios. Additionally, investors who can't handle the stress of portfolio swings cause more harm by switching around positions or going to cash, than if they'd been diversified with focus on staying invested over the long-term.

What can be done now?

Diversification. Origins of the 60/40 portfolio date back to stocks and bonds being the only two major asset classes. The evolution and access to indexes, funds and technology over the last few decades has provided choice for broadly diversified portfolios. Within fixed income, consider "Core & Explore". Core stability from Treasuries and highly rated corporate

bonds, then explore global fixed income with higher yields - if you can tolerate the higher volatility.

A TIP about inflation. When markets think one way and the opposite happens, shocks occur for extended periods. Markets think inflation is controlled. Treasury Inflation-Protected Bonds (TIPs), commodities, hard assets and real-estate investment trusts (REITs) help hedge against inflation or stagflation. When inflation heats up, stock-bond correlation will increase together, thus these should help bring lower volatility.

Goals-based planning. Financial planners can help implement broadly diversified portfolios to align to an individual/family's goals, needs, timelines and risk tolerance whether you are in an accumulation or distribution phase of your life.



Glenn Brown

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

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

AMBULANCE

continued from page 2

transport. The Hopedale Fire Department would be added to the hospital's call rotation.

Inter-facility transports include transfer from one hospital to another hospital, discharge from a hospital to a skilled nursing facility, and discharge from a hospital to a patient's home. The costs are typically covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

Based on six inter-facility transports per day, Daige estimates the service would generate approximately \$847,000 per year in ambulance receipts to be added to the current yearly total of approximately \$385,000 per year.

There will be startup costs for the town including equipment required to qualify as an inter-facility transport as well as an anticipated 300 percent increase to the department's current vehicle repairs and maintenance budget.

Selectman Lou Arcudi expressed concern that, if the inter-facility transport program starts losing money, the town would have to release some of the new employees.

Selectman Brian Keyes cautioned the program would need to be profitable to keep the new-hires on the payroll.

"You have to be in the black in year four," Keyes said. "I'd hate to have to cut people who have been working diligently for you for three years."

Daige said the projected income from Milford Hospital's Emergency Department is merely a starting point.

"We're just scratching the surface," he said. "We could take patients from other floors, too."

Daige said the town is likely to receive the SAFER grant but if it does not, Hopedale's participation in the inter-facility transport program is still feasible but, in that case, he would only hire four firefighters whose costs would be absorbed by the ambulance receipts generated.

Selectmen approved the grant application with the caveat that "before we accept the grant, we have a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee to move forward."

A determination on the grant is expected in May.

Hopedale Fire Department hopes to provide inter-facility transport services to increase its annual ambulance receipts. Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov



Hopedale Fire/EMS increases ambulance fees

Move should increase receipts by \$35,000 this year

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale Fire/EMS has increased its ambulance fees to bring them more in line with market rates.

"We're about 32 percent below average," Fire Chief Thomas Daige told the Board of Selectmen in March, referencing an EMS Billing Survey he con-

ducted in 2020 to which 50 fire departments responded.

Daige noted that ambulance runs are "trending upward" and the new fees should increase ambulance receipts by about \$35,000 this fiscal year. The new rates include:

Basic Life Support: Increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500

Transportation by ambulance and provision of medically necessary supplies and services.

Advanced Life Support, level 1: Increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000

FEE INCREASE

continued on page 5

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Residents file lawsuit against town claiming selectmen did not follow special town meeting mandate

Eleven residents say selectmen agreed to items that are beyond its discretion

BY THERESA KNAPP

On March 3, 2021, a group of residents filed suit against the Town of Hopedale, two selectmen, and the Grafton and Upton Railroad (including its owner, president, and an associated realty trust) related to the recent settlement agreement between the town and GURR for the purchase of land at and near 364 West Street.

The 24-page complaint was filed in Worcester Superior Court by Attorney David Lurie, of Lurie Friedman LLP in Boston, who represents the 11 taxpayers.

"The Board of Selectmen gave away parkland that properly belongs to the Town, and got into bed with the Railroad once again," Lurie told *Hopedale Town News* on March 3. "The Town voted unanimously to preserve the forest as parkland, and the Board had no business striking a deal behind closed doors for anything less than that."

The lawsuit asserts, in part, that the:

Town effectively and fully exercised its c. 61 first refusal option and can purchase the forestland subject to the July 9, 2020 notice of intent.

Selectmen agreed to items in the settlement agreement that are far beyond its discretion.

Selectmen illegally agreed to payment of more than \$587,500 (the purchase price set at Special Town Meeting) for less land than Special Town Meeting agreed to buy.

Selectmen illegally waived and released the town's c. 61 rights without Town Meeting authorization.

Selectmen's failure to obtain Finance Committee review of the new and substantially different expenditures is in violation of the town's general bylaw.

Selectmen illegally agreed to payments of rollback taxes, survey costs, and hydrogeological analysis.

Use of c. 61 forestland for railroad and non-parkland purposes is illegal harm to the environment.

According to court documents, the plaintiffs are asking the court, in part, to:

Prohibit Selectmen from obtaining any bonds, making any expenditures, paying any costs, or transferring any property interests pursuant to the settlement agreement reached between the town and GURR in January 2021.

Order that the town's right of first refusal regarding the c. 61 forestland was effectively exercised.

Enter an order to transfer title of the forestland to the town, free and clear of any restrictions set by the January settlement agreement.

Enter an order that the town's eminent domain taking of the wetlands is effective and is free and clear of any restrictions set by the January settlement agreement.

Prohibit GURR from taking any action or conducting any activities on or concerning the c. 61 forestland which would result in any alienation of the c. 61 forestland or any conversion of its current use as forest land.

Enter an order that the property, including the forestland and wetlands, is parkland protected under Article 97 by public dedication and acceptance and prior public use, and cannot be converted to non-parkland use without a town meeting vote and two-thirds votes of the state legislature.

A hearing in Worcester Superior Court was scheduled for March 8 but was pushed to March 10. As of press time, no judgement has been made public.

Girl Scouts win Bronze Award for Project Hope

BY ROSE AND SHELLEY DEERING

Nine girls in Troop 11582 earned the Bronze Award last summer. This is the first award in a series of three awards they can earn. In the next few years the girls will work on their Silver Award and then have a chance to go for their Gold Award.

While it was a start to the pandemic, the girls focused on others to help them grow and stay strong. By working together they were able to share their talents and see how their actions can make a big impact in their community. The steps the girls needed to take were



brainstorming project ideas, choosing the project, making a plan, putting the plan in motion and lastly to spread the word.

They started with an idea of making activity bags for children in their community. They also wanted to spread hope and cheer with inspirational cards. All spring and summer the girls worked together making cards, decorating bags and filling the bags. In the end they were able to help multiple families by providing them with essential items, toys, schools supplies and handmade inspirational cards to help them get through this very difficult time. The name the girls came up with was Project Hope.

The girls who worked on Project Hope were Megan Alley, Madison Buttonow, Mabel Carriero, Rose Deering, Sophia De Oliveira, Delaney Dicken, Kelly Kavanagh, Ella Raiche and Olivia Shepard. We are so blessed to have these girls in our community and look forward to seeing what they can do in their future!

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But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn

**Business
spotlight**



carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

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

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

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a 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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FEE INCREASE

continued from page 3

Transportation by ambulance and provision of medically necessary supplies and services plus an ALS assessment or at least one ALS intervention.

Advanced Life Support, level 2: Increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000

Transportation by ambulance and provision of medically necessary supplies and services plus "at least three separate administrations of one or more medications by intravenous push/bolus

or by continuous infusion" or ground transportation and the provision of at least one of several other qualifying procedures.

Per mile rate: Increased from \$30 to \$35

Daige anticipates FY21 receipts to total \$365,000 and says, with these increases, next year's receipts should total approximately \$588,071.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the new ambulance fee structure.

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Through the years we have seen all too often a person or family who thought all was well, only to discover otherwise at the worst possible time ...

Mr. Morgan came to one of our free discovery seminars a while back. If you asked him at the time, he probably could not give you a specific answer as to why he showed up, other than, "I knew I had to do something and when I saw your information about the education and counseling process, I just felt like I had to be there."

It was fortunate that Mr. Morgan made this decision. We had noticed him sitting in the back. He was easy to spot in his red striped tie but more importantly because he never took his eyes off of us as we spoke. Talking with him afterwards, we could see why he was hanging on our every word regarding protecting your estate and assets.

His wife had recently become ill, and medical bills had begun to deplete their life savings. It had been their dream to live a comfortable lifestyle in retirement and eventually leave a financial legacy for their children and grandchildren, but now all this was in serious jeopardy. It was very possible, he said, that Mrs. Morgan might have to enter a nursing home, which would further rob them of hard-earned retirement savings earmarked for their loved ones.

Mr. Morgan's situation was very personal to our team. It struck at the very heart of our core values of Faith, Family and Finances. It is why we have done our very best to protect families in our community and region for generations! Does this sound like something that hits home for you as well?

Upon learning of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan's plight at our discovery session, we immediately set up an appointment with Mr. Morgan to dig deeper into the

situation. In preparation for our meeting, we did a thorough and complete review of legal, financial and tax matters, including present finances, future goals and, most importantly, the major obstacles (medical and otherwise) that could potentially rob this couple of their hard-earned money and retirement savings. Accordingly, we determined what they wished to do to make their children and grandchildren more comfortable. The end result was that Mr. and Mrs. Morgan were able to stay on track through a solid retirement, estate and asset protection plan we put in place for them.

What about your present situation? Might there be landmines on the horizon which could shatter your future dreams and plans? Based on what has happened to numerous clients, families have been unable to visit and/or coordinate matters from bill paying to document signing. Those who had the right legal documents and financial matters coordinated as well as the right people in place, were successful with what needed to be done. We have heard of many

who did not have the right team and/or preparations in place, and the outcomes were not favorable. How has Covid-19 affected your family, friends and neighbors? What if Mr. Morgan had not happened upon our free discovery workshop and personal counseling session? What might his and his wife's financial future have looked like? Do not let a healthcare catastrophe or another major event put an end to what you have been working towards for your golden years.

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Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate, experienced professionals who Protect Families for Generations.

Book a free online discovery session today. You'll discover why 90% of all trust and estate plans fail as well as what you can do to protect your health, home, spouse, family, legacy, and life savings. You and your family will benefit from the peace of mind knowing you have done everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones for generations. Call 800-964-4295 NOW to register for a Discovery Session or visit www.DSullivan.com.



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Contract awarded for library roof repairs

\$218,490 contract awarded to company with historic experience



By THERESA KNAPP

The contract for roof repairs and restoration for the Bancroft Memorial Library has been awarded to Almar LLC of Medfield in the amount of \$218,490.

The town received seven bids. Almar was the lowest qualified bidder with experience with historic buildings.

According to bid documents, Almar has worked on numerous public and private historic buildings and their work includes slate, wood and asphalt roofing; copper work; wood gutters; historic windows; structural beam repairs and more.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Library Director Robyn York said the repairs should be done by the end of June 2021.

Top: Contract awarded for roof repairs at the Bancroft Memorial Library. Credit: Theresa Knapp

Bottom: Roof repairs at the library should be finished by the end of June. Credit: Theresa Knapp



Warrant article will change name of town's executive arm to "Selectboard"

Changing from "Board of Selectmen" requires a legislative act

By THERESA KNAPP

At this year's annual town meeting, residents will be asked to approve an article to petition the state legislature to change the name of Hopedale's executive arm of government from a "Board of Selectmen" to a "Selectboard."

The name change better reflects modern times, and also reflects similar action taken recently in Grafton, Milford, Medway and many other towns around the Commonwealth. In 2020, the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association changed its name to the Massachusetts Select Board Association.

The name change "reflects diversity, equality and inclusion," said Brian Keyes, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen at a recent meeting, and reaffirms a

unanimous vote taken by selectmen in 2019 to make the change.

The issue was brought forward again in January at the request of then-selectwoman Glenda Hazard who was elected to the position in December 2020. Hazard has since resigned from the board, citing a family emergency.

Keyes says there will be some costs associated with the change but "I think we can absorb those at this time."

Petitioning the legislature is the next step in the process, explained Town Administrator Diana Schindler at a recent selectmen's meeting.

If voters approve the measure, the town will petition lawmakers to file the necessary legislation to make the change; it could take several months to complete the process.

Family donation to pay for Unicorn supplies

Special thanks to the Fox family

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Board of Selectmen accepted a generous gift to the Bancroft Memorial Library from Beth Fox and her daughter Brittany.

The Foxes' gift of \$10 was put toward the purchase of materials for the Unicorn Make and Take craft offered by the library's Children's Room in March.

The selectmen accepted the gift with thanks; and Library Director Robyn York said, in a letter to selectmen, "Programming and craft supplies are not within our town budget, so these funds help us expand offerings to our community."

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Annual town elections

Annual Town Election is Tuesday May 11, 2021.

Last day to withdraw as a candidate or object to nomination papers is Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting is: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Obtaining Nomination Papers

Nomination papers can be obtained by contacting the Hopedale Town Clerk's office and making an appointment. With the new restrictions and difficulties arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have outlined some guidelines and suggestions below to help candidates navigate the collection of signatures. Please contact our office at any time if you have any questions.

Obtaining signatures: What is not allowed?

- Electronic signatures. All signatures must be in wet ink.
- Time Extensions. There are no extended deadlines approved by Massachusetts State for the obtaining of nomination signatures.
- Reduction of Signatures. The number of signatures required remains the same.

Obtaining signatures: What is allowed?

- Multiple signature pages – Each signee, or family, may have their own individual nomination paper form.
- Scheduling drop-off - Please give our office a call to schedule drop off of nomination papers so we can issue you a receipt.

Suggestions for Obtaining Signatures:

- You can mail/email individual nomination papers to people and ask them to print and sign them and mail them back to you.
- Candidates can set up a table, with permission, at a post office, or other public place (i.e. a grocery store), but include fresh pens, gloves and sanitizer.
- Some candidates are announcing the locations of supporters who have covered porches and letting people drop by to sign. Candidates can set specific hours to sign so their nomination papers don't stay unsupervised for long hours.
- Advertise designated signing areas/times through social media or mail.
- Please note: each page must have the candidate's information filled out on both the front and back of the page.

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Tel: 508-634-2203 X215 Fax: 508-634-2200

Email: lpedroli@hopedale-ma.gov

Town Clerk
Lisa M. Pedroli



The following elected offices will appear on the Annual Town Election ballot scheduled for Tuesday May 11, 2021. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerks office on Tuesday February 16, 2021.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	3 YEARS
BOARD OF HEALTH	3 YEARS
HOUSING AUTHORITY	5 YEARS
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YEARS
PARK COMMISSION	3 YEARS
PLANNING BOARD	5 YEARS
PLANNING BOARD	1 YEAR
ROAD COMMISSIONER.....	3 YEARS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
TREE WARDEN	3 YEARS
TOWN MODERATOR	3 YEARS
WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER.....	3 YEARS
WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER.....	1 YEAR

Developer proposes homes near entrance to Parklands

More title work needed as opponents say land is controlled by the Park Commission and cannot be developed

By THERESA KNAPP

Another development is proposed at the end of Overdale Parkway toward the entrance to the Hopedale Parklands. Previous developments proposed in 1959, 1985 and 1999 were denied because the unpaved portion at the end of Overdale Parkway is reportedly under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

Overdale Parkway has historically been used by the general public to access the Parklands as has been the custom since the road was built in 1916 (after gathering land from 1899 to 1916 to create the park, according to legal documents). Today, the Parklands are used for hiking, winter sports, mountain biking, dog walking, educational groups, youth organizations, and by local school athletics.

Overdale Parkway is a private dead-end road that has not been accepted as a public road though the town does maintain the 1,500 foot portion it first paved in 1955. Decades ago, the Park Commission installed a metal security gate to block vehicle access to the path to the Parklands.

The proposed development is planned for the northerly side of the security gate.

This development proposes to pave an additional 703 feet of roadway past the town's metal gate, building four houses on the easterly (right-hand) side (by developer Richard Lima) of the unpaved access road and six houses on the westerly (left-hand) side (by second unnamed devel-

oper) of the roadway. In total, 10 single-family homes.

The plan was discussed at a Feb. 22 meeting of the Board of Selectmen as part of a conversation to "Accept gift from Virginia A. Larkin and Richard D. Larkin (a 30-foot-wide paved road into the Hopedale Parklands from the present end of the pavement on Overdale Parkway...)"

A 90-minute discussion included the Board of Selectmen; Katherine Klein of KP Law, Hopedale's town counsel; Tom McLaughlin, attorney for Lima, developer of easterly property; Stephan Rodolakis, attorney for unnamed developer of westerly property; and the public.

Residents said the unpaved portion of the road is under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission, and referenced a 2003 Land Court "Black Brook" decision that denied access to the land in question because the unpaved portion of the road is not a public way. They also noted a 1985 engineering plan that designates the unpaved portion as "Hopedale Parklands."

A 1985 Special Town Meeting was also referenced at which the gift of land from the Larkins was allegedly accepted by the town. The relevant portions of the June 24, 1985 special town meeting minutes read, in part:

[Special Town Meeting] Voted that the Town accept as a gift from Virginia A. and Richard D. Larkin, a 30 foot wide paved access road into the Hopedale Parklands from the present end of the pavement on Overdale Parkway approximately 703 feet, more or less, northerly into the parklands, all as shown on the plan attached to this warrant entitled, "PLAN OF LAND IN HOPEDALE, MASS. showing paved road donated to the Town of Hopedale under Article 7 of the June 24, 1985 Special Town

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Hopedale resignations, appointments and promotions

By THERESA KNAPP

At recent meetings of the Board of Selectmen, the board accepted a resignation, made three appointments, and promoted three academy recruits to call firefighters.

Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board

of Steven Gallagher from the

Zoning Board of Appeals on which he has served for 30 years and the Planning Board on which he has served for 12 years. Gallagher is selling his house and is moving out of town and said, in a letter to selectmen, that “it has been interesting and a pleasure to serve the town that my wife and I have lived in for 38 years and raised our 3 children in.”

Finance Committee

Ken Wilson has been appointed to the Finance Committee. Wilson has experience in supply chain and logistics, and has lived in Hopedale for 20 years. In his qualifications, he cited an “extensive history of leadership and



team-building in both [the] private sector and as an Army Engineer Officer.” As reasons for wanting to serve, Wilson said “I would like the ability to present recommendations and solutions to [the] committee vs. having a limited role as a ‘spectator’...”

Water & Sewer Commission

The Board of Selectmen and the Water & Sewer Commission have jointly appointed Donald Cooper to the Water & Sewer Commission. Cooper has more than 16 years of experience in municipal water and sewer plus

RESIGNATIONS

continued on page 10

DEVELOPER

continued from page 8

Meeting by Virginia A. and Richard D. Larkin and the limits of the right of way granted to the Owners of Lots 1,2,3,4, on the Easterly side and the owners of Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6 on the Westerly side and the area rededicated to park use. [?] 30 feet to an inch. Date June 1, 1985, Guerriera & Halnon, Inc., Engineering and Land Surveying, 326 West Street, Milford, Mass.”

Special Town Meeting then went on to accept the gift and the



town agreed to maintain Overland Parkway.

Tom McLaughlin, attorney for Lima, contends the town never accepted the 1985 gift and

asked selectmen to do that now, then the developer could begin the approval process with the Planning Board. Lima argued that an assessor’s map presented

The development proposed at the end of Overdale Parkway would include paving what is now an unpaved path that leads to the entrance to the Parklands. Shown here is the start of the unpaved section (at the snow-bank), approximately 200 feet before the as well as the sign and metal gate installed by the Park Commission decades ago.

Credit: Theresa Knapp

to selectmen “demonstrates that Overlay Parkway goes 703 feet past that gate.”

Don Howes, chairman of the current Park Commission, asked for additional time to look into the issue, and said the unpaved

accessway is under his commission’s jurisdiction. “I believe that it’s a piece of the Parklands, that has been my understanding for the nearly six years that I’ve been on the Commission.”

Town Counsel Klein said additional title work should be done. Selectman Lou Arcudi said the town “should do its due diligence and do it quickly.”

The matter was put on hold until late March to accommodate further title work. As of press time, no results had been made public.




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Bancroft Memorial Library

Library Column /April 2021 Update



50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747

Contact: Robyn York, Library Director, 508-634-2209

Hopedale - Bancroft Memorial Library News

Patriots' Day

The Bancroft Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, April 19 in observance of Patriots' Day.

April Zoom Programming

Happy Spring! Please Zoom with us on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30pm when the Grounded Goodwife will present **Quack or Fact**. "The history of medicine is filled with stories of strange tonics, outlandish remedies, and curious "cures." Toads, snails, mashed potatoes, mandrake, and bear grease were commonly prescribed. While some of these ingredients sound crazy, there's logic behind many of them!" Join Ehris and Velya for a funny and factual exploration of colonial "quackery."

On Monday, April 26 at 6:30pm the Grounded Goodwife will present **What Should I Grow In My Medicinal Herb Garden?** "Starting an herb garden isn't as overwhelming as you may think – and spending time in a medicinal herb garden is heal-

ing by its very existence."

Please call the Library at (508)634-2209 or email us at hopedalelibrary@cwmar.org to register for the programs. On the day of the program, you will be emailed a Zoom link.

Thank you to the Friends of the Hopedale Library for sponsoring these wonderful programs!

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.

Our book discussion on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 1:00 pm will be *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. "In a book both timely and prodigiously readable, Cummins offers an unrelenting and terrifyingly you-

are-there account of a Mexican mother and son fleeing to America after cartel violence takes their entire family." -- Library Journal review

Since this also National Poetry Month, you are invited to bring favorite poem to share.

The book to be discussed in May will be *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. The novel, set in Depression-era America, is a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky. They will become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them - and to the men they love - becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion.

Friends of the Hopedale Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library's Ongoing Book Sale is brimming with new items and open for business! If you prefer curbside service, you may also request a bag of books by genre for \$5. Choose from large print, mysteries, nonfiction, trades, YA, juniors, chapter books, first readers, picture books, or a mix! Just email the *Friends* at friendsofthehopedalelibrary@gmail.com with your request. Orders will be ready once a week for pickup in the Library vestibule. You will be contacted when your bag is ready. All donated books have been quarantined before being put on display.

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

Fairy Tale Storytime and Craft

Once upon a time, Mrs. Kraimer read a few of her favorite fairy tale stories! The

MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS NEEDED



The Hopedale Council on Aging is seeking volunteer drivers and subs.

Meals are distributed from the meal site in Upton, MA and delivered to frail seniors in Hopedale. Volunteers will be reimbursed for mileage.

Got two hours per month? Please call the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208 for details.

Help us keep elders in their homes. COVID safe doorstep deliveries.

The Meals on Wheel Program is provided through Tri-Valley Elder Services Inc.

storytime will be available on YouTube on Friday, April 16. The craft will be also be available for pickup at the Library on Friday.

Storytime on the Lawn

Join Mrs. Kraimer for a special Storytime on the Lawn to celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22 at 11:00am. Listen to stories and plant a sunflower to take home! Participants are required to wear masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Social distancing protocols will be followed. Registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register.

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>.

RESIGNATIONS

continued from page 9

more than 10 years of experience in the water works industry. Cooper is the current Assistant Superintendent of the Medway Water & Sewer Department, and has lived in town for 50 years. He has been informally helping the W&S Commission and was appointed to a seat that was vacant, and will run on the town ballot in May for his next term.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Thomas Daige reported that call candidates Justin Carnaroli, Kristin Krauss and Adam Kaminski-Miller had completed the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Fire Academy and were all promoted to Call Firefighters effective March 1.

"These three individuals have been very, very active," Daige told the Board of Selectmen, adding, "All three of these candidates have family within the fire service...it's 'all in the genes,' if you will."

In addition, Brandon DeLuca was appointed as a Call Firefighter to the department. DeLuca is a career firefighter/paramedic who recently moved to Hopedale.

For more information about serving on a town board or commission, visit the town's website for the Talent Bank Form which can then be sent to the Town Administrator's Office.



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Living Healthy

Glaucoma Treatment: SLT

10 Commonly Asked Questions

By: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
Milford Franklin Eye Center

Lasers can be very useful in treating many eye problems from helping patients eliminate the need for glasses to cosmetic procedures of the eyelids and bladeless cataract surgery to treatment of glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a condition that can damage our field of vision. It affects us when the pressure inside the eye is higher than what the eye can tolerate. Glaucoma is treatable with drops targeted at lowering the eye pressure. Laser technology can also be used in a focused beam of light to treat the drainage angle of the eye in an additional attempt to lower the pressure. This surgery makes it easier for fluid to flow out of the front part of the eye, decreasing pressure inside the eye. Selective laser trabeculoplasty or SLT is the name of the laser procedure used to lower the pressure. SLT has been in use for more than 25 years in the United States and around the world.

1. Who is a candidate for SLT?

Patients who have primary or secondary open-angle glaucoma (the drainage system in the front part of the eye is open) and are in need of lowering of their intraocular pressure (IOP) are eligible for the procedure. Your eye doctor will make the final determination if you are a candidate.

2. How does it work?

Laser energy is applied to the drainage tissue in the eye. This starts a chemical and biological change in the tissue that results in better drainage of fluid through the drain and out of the eye. This eventually results

in lowering of IOP. It may take 1-3 months for the results to appear.

3. Why is it called Selective?

The type of laser used has minimal heat energy absorption because it is only taken up by selected pigmented tissue in the eye. Sometimes it is referred to as a "cold laser." Because of this, the procedure produces less scar tissue and has minimal pain.

4. What are the risks?

One key aspect of SLT is a favorable side effect profile, even when compared with glaucoma medications. Post-operative inflammation is common but generally mild, and treated with observation or eye drops or an oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. There is an approximately 5% incidence of IOP elevation after laser, which can be managed by glaucoma medications and usually goes away after 24 hours.

5. How effective is it and how long does it last?

SLT lowers the IOP by about 30% when used as initial therapy. This is comparable to the IOP lowering of the most powerful and commonly used class of glaucoma medication (prostaglandin analogs). This effect may be reduced if the patient is already on glaucoma medications. The effect will generally last between 1-5 years, and in some cases, longer than that. If it does not last at least 6-12 months, it is usually not considered successful.

6. What happens if it wears off?

If SLT is effective at lowering IOP but this wears off over several years, the procedure can be repeated. Repeat treatments may or may not lower IOP as much as the first, and continued repeat laser will eventually not be effective. Some doctors may elect to treat half of the tissue on the first treatment, then treat the second half at a later date (this is not considered repeat treatment, and is completion of treatment). If SLT is not initially successful, repeat treatment is not likely to be effective. Alternatively, glaucoma medication can be used if the effect wears off over time.

7. What happens if it doesn't work?

If SLT fails to lower the IOP, then the glaucoma is treated by other means such as additional medications or surgery. The laser does not affect the success of these other types of treatment.

8. What is the cost?

Since the procedure is an accepted glaucoma treatment, and is FDA approved, it is covered by Medicare and medical insurance. The cost for an uninsured individual or with an insurance co-pay will vary.

9. Will I still need to use glaucoma medications?

Some patients can be controlled with just laser treatment. Others require additional IOP lowering and may therefore need to use glaucoma medication as well. Think of the SLT as equivalent to one glaucoma medication. Just as some patients will require more than one glaucoma medication to control their IOP, some may also require laser plus one or more glaucoma medications. It is important to remember that SLT is not a cure for glaucoma, just as medication and surgery are not. Whatever method is used to treat glaucoma, appropriate follow up and testing with your eye care professional is critical.

10. What are the alternative laser treatments?

Other similar procedures are argon laser trabeculoplasty (ALT) and micro-pulse laser trabeculoplasty (MLT). ALT was the first laser trabeculoplasty procedure. It uses a thermal (heat) laser and may cause more scarring in the drainage angle than SLT, which may also limit its ability to be repeated. MLT was designed to reduce the amount of energy delivered to ocular tissues by pulsing the energy in small increments. It

therefore has similar potential benefits as SLT in terms of lower inflammation, tissue scarring and ability to repeat.

In summary:

SLT is a laser treatment for open-angle glaucoma that lowers eye pressure. It can be used as initial treatment, instead of eye drop medications, or as additional treatment when medications do not adequately reduce the eye pressure. It is often effective but that effectiveness may wear off after some period of time. It can be repeated but the effect may be reduced with repeat treatment. SLT is not a cure for glaucoma but one of many tools to keep it under control. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons to offer SLT in the area. We perform the procedure in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford and closer to home. With this center available to you here in your backyard there is no reason to travel hours to have eye surgery and laser glaucoma surgery. If your eye provider is still recommending you travel miles away to have surgery we are available for a second opinion! We are proud to offer excellence in SLT- laser glaucoma surgery with world class outcomes and here is the great news: Here, in Milford, and closer to home than ever before!

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Everyday ways to celebrate Earth Day 2021

Things to do on April 22 or any day to celebrate the Blue Planet

By THERESA KNAPP

This year, we celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22. The now-worldwide event started in 1970 to bring attention to environmental issues.

one billion people for action every Earth Day in more than 190 countries around the world, according to the site.

The following are several COVID-19-sensitive ways to celebrate Earth Day at home:



Source: www.earthday.org

According to www.earthday.org, it was the idea of then-Senator Gaylord Nelson who, in 1969, witnessed a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA, and “wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution.” More than 50 years later, Earth Day has mobilized more than

- Go for a walk and take a trash bag to clean up your neighborhood while you exercise.
- Support local restaurants by purchasing to-go meals once a week.
- Turn off lights if you're not in the room.
- Go vegetarian/meat free for

the day, week, month or however long you choose.

- Get organized: Create donation stations within your home while doing spring cleaning. Keep the items until you are able to donate to a local organization or sell online.
- Create a compost bin in your yard. Turn all your food scraps and yard trimmings into nourishment for a garden. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers tips on how to compost at home. <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>
- Plan a garden. This is the perfect time to grow seeds and start a garden at home. By growing your own food, you may save some trips to the grocery store. Cornell University offers handy guides on how to grow vegetables and flowers, as well as advice on how to design a flower garden. <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/>

- Plant a pollinator garden. For tips, visit <http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/pollinator-support>
- Build a bat house. Bats play a key role in pollinating plants. <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Cover/Build-a-Bat-House>
- Build a bee boutique out of spare materials around the house. <https://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>

- Make art out of recycled materials. *Become an Artist for the Earth.*
- Donate to a local food pantry.
- Take an Earth Day quiz. <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/>

Sources: <https://news.syr.edu/blog/2020/04/21/how-to-celebrate-earth-day-from-home/> and www.earthday.org

Places to celebrate Earth Day 2021:

Musketaquid Earth Day 2021 – Ongoing through April 25 (Concord)

A conversation with Anja Kampmann, author of High as the Waters Rise (2018); and Amy Brady, who writes about arts, culture and the environment – April 22 at noon (Waltham)

General Earth Day Event – April 22 at 7:00 p.m. (Boston)

From Black Ecology, Human Ecology to Ikologiks – April 24 at 1:15 p.m. (Natick)

For more information, visit <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

Celebrate your Graduate!

The Class of 2021 has experienced the most unusual senior year of our lifetimes!

▽ Hybrid Learning
 ▽ Spring Football
 ▽ Face Coverings

Send them a Congratulations and Send Off they will never forget!

Door Banner

30" x 72" Vinyl Banner with grommets for hanging.

from \$45

Car Banner

5" x 3' Vinyl Banner with grommets for hanging or attaching

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Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Beneficials

Zoom Presentation: Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

Presenter: John Root, Naturalist/Landscaper

Attend and enjoy a 90-minute remote Zoom presentation by experienced naturalist John Root and learn how to attract pollinators and other beneficial wildlife into your yards and neighborhoods on Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. This warm and engaging presentation will show you which plants nourish and protect these organisms. A recording of this event will be scheduled for multiple broadcasts by Norfolk Media and will be accessible via YouTube at their website.

Join Zoom Meeting on April 1 at 7 pm:
tinyurl.com/1hj6k9hq
 Meeting ID: 861 1450 8871
 Passcode: 551393
 Audio by phone #: 1 646 558 8656

This program is Cohosted by the Norfolk Grange and by the Norfolk Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Sports

Hopedale Girls Volleyball

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Twenty years ago, Chris Ridolfi began his volleyball coaching career at Milford High School, where he stayed for six years before moving onto the collegiate level, where he coached for the next 13 seasons.

He left coaching to begin a family and when the job opened up last summer for a volleyball coach in Hopedale, he thought it was a good time to get back in the game.

Although hired to be the Blue Raiders volleyball coach, he wouldn't get the opportunity for quite some time due to the situations surrounding the country with the pandemic. Even now as the season approaches (Hopedale began the season on March 17) Ridolfi and his team are still vulnerable to the situation surrounding them.

"With Covid there is still unpredictability and schedule changes. Something comes up every day related to the season and changes," the Hopedale Coach. "So many different things happening and being a planner, the unpredictability gets to me."

Hopedale will play 12 games within its pod against Nipmuc,

Whitinsville-Christian, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone Valley Tech and Bethany Christian. Each week the Blue Raiders will play a home and away game with the same team each week on Wednesday and Friday.

Hopedale's only senior and captain Bianca Fitch, who has started since her freshman year, is one of the best volleyball players in the area and should provide the Blue Raiders with the experience they need to be successful. Fitch is already committed to play volleyball at Stonehill College next year.

"She is a phenomenal character kid and having coached is some top college leagues I've come across some character layers and she's up there with her leadership and unselfishness," Ridolfi said. "Traditionally she's a libero but this year I may need her to hit. She's willing to do whatever is needed for the team."

The Coach went on to say that he couldn't stop the rest of the team from following Fitch if he wanted to; she's a top-notch player with all the skills.

Following the senior captain, Hopedale has a deep junior class with the likes of Kaylin Boldy (outside hitter), Kelly Knowlton

(right side hitter who will defend the opposition's best hitter), Gina Wilke (middle hitter) and Ashleigh Bourgeois (defensive player who will also challenge for the libero position) who will all contribute on the court this season.

Hopedale's starting setter will be sophomore Franny Fitch, who starter for the Blue raiders as a freshman last year. According to Ridolfi, she is the quarterback of the team and will pass along the game plan from the Coach to the rest of the team.

Another starter will be Taylor Martin-LaVache, a sophomore



who will be changing positions from the right side to middle hitter to team up with Wilke. Being two of the team's tallest players on the court Martin-LaVache and Wilke are capable of playing above the net and their athleticism will allow Hopedale to play a physical brand of volleyball.

Hopedale will also see some action from first year players in juniors Sage Garvin and Sophia Garzoli. Garvin will be a utility player who brings decent size to the front, while Garzoli, who was a contributing field hockey player for Blue Raiders and recreational outdoor volleyball player, will

also see time on the court. Garzoli's field hockey season usually conflicts with the volleyball season and with it being moved this year she had the opportunity to take advantage of playing for Hopedale.

Rounding out the Blue Raiders squad will be freshman Kelsey Evans and sophomore Riley Thomson, who will both be challenging for an outside hitter position; freshman Sydney Hall, the back-up setter; sophomore Ana Almeida, defense, and sophomore April Mason, the back-up middle hitter.

Over the past four or five seasons Hopedale has always managed to challenge for the top of the Dual Valley Conference and although a first year Coach Ridolfi expects nothing less from his team again this season. According to the coach, they will be prepared and pus every team that takes the court.

Although there will be a shortened season there will be no post-season play following that season.

"The girls are definitely disappointed that there will be no tournament this year, but that are grateful to have a season," the Hopedale Coach said. "The fact that they get to play a game they love while continuing to stay healthy and safe is a big plus. They are looking forward to getting onto the court and competing at a high level once again."

FILING TAXES?

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE CIRCUIT BREAKER

TAX CREDIT

As a senior you may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on your personal state income tax return. The Circuit Breaker tax credit is based on the actual real estate taxes paid on the Massachusetts residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence. The maximum credit amount for tax year 2020 is \$1,150. Income eligibility is \$61,000 or less for a single person, or \$92,000 for a married couple. Other guidelines are required. Call (508)634-2208 for details on program requirements.



ARE YOU A HOMEBOUND SENIOR WHO NEEDS A COVID-19 VACCINE?

The Hopedale Sr. Center along with the Hopedale Board of Health want to assist homebound seniors in obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.



If you or someone you know in Hopedale is unable to leave their home or would need considerable assistance to leave their home, please call the Hopedale Sr. Center at (508)634-2208. We will review the state guidelines to determine if you qualify for an in-home vaccine.

Join the Hopedale Sr. Center For

“SPRING BREAK”

Free Drive-In Meal

Plus Entertainment by DJ Mike



Wednesday April 21, 2021

Union Evangelical Church Parking Lot

11:30 am

Pick from one of two options:

⇒ Pick-up your meal at 25 Dutcher St.

Stay in your car for the entertainment

Trivia and Music!

⇒ Request Home Delivery of your meal

Menu:

Chicken Marsala, Vegetable Rice and Dessert

Catered by Olivias Market

(maximum sign-up 50 participants)

Provided by a grant from the United Way.

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SHINE NEWS

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH MEDICARE COSTS?

MassHealth Buy-in Programs, also called the Medicare Savings Programs, will pay for the Part B monthly premium, \$148.50 per month.

These programs may also help pay some of your out-of-pocket costs of Medicare.

The Buy-In programs can also help get Medicare Part B for people who only have Medicare Part A.

If you are in a Buy-In program, you will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program through Social Security, which can help with pharmacy costs.

The information below is the financial eligibility for April, 2021.

Monthly Gross Income	Assets (i.e. savings account)
Individual \$1,771	\$15,940
Couple \$2,396	\$23,920

If you feel you may be eligible under these new income guidelines, feel free to call the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208 for more information.

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE

Name/Nombre
JOHN L SMITH

Medicare Number/Número de Medicare
1EG4-TE5-MK72

Entitled to/Con derecho a
HOSPITAL (PART A) Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
MEDICAL (PART B) **03-01-2016**

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	HOPEDALE	Amount
Feb. 19	82 Green Street	\$500,000
March 1	199 South Main Street	\$423,000
March 3	180 Dutcher Street	\$440,000

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



199 South Main Street, Hopedale, recently sold for \$423,000. Credit: www.zillow.com

Place Your Ad HERE!

Contact Jeremy for Pricing and Reservations:
413-204-5296 or email: jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com





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Jack Broderick
Realtor, ABR

Ways to Celebrate: APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	April month-long celebrations: National Humor Month Keep America Beautiful Month National Kite Month Stress Awareness Month			1 National Burrito Day	2 Autism Awareness Day	3 National Handmade Day
4 Passover ends Easter Sunday	5 Gold Star Spouse's Day	6 National Library Workers' Day	7 National Walking Day	8 Zoo Lover's Day	9 National Former POW Recognition Day	10 National Siblings Day
11 National Pet Day	12 National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day	13 National Scrabble Day	14 National Gardening Day	15 Ntl High-5 Day & Tax Day	16 Emancipation Day	17 Husband Appreciation Day
18 Ntl Haiku Poetry Day	19 Patriot's Day	20 National Look-Alike Day	21 Administrative Professionals Day	22 Take Your Child to Work Day	23 National Picnic Day	24 Pig-in-a-Blanket Day
25 World Penguin Day	26 Pretzel Day	27 Morse Code Day	28 National Superhero Day	29 International Dance Day	30 Honesty Day	

Credit: Theresa Knapp for Local Town Pages

Opening Summer 2021

NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

SALMON
HEALTH & RETIREMENT
THE WILLOWS | WHITNEY PLACE

SALMON at Medway is a 55+ community that combines active living and assisted living/memory care on one campus. This modern approach to senior living allows seniors and their families the ability to choose one "community" that will serve them throughout their golden years. Moving to a senior living community is a decision that *can* and *should* be made just once.

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Join Us for Complimentary Virtual Events

Join us for a series of complimentary virtual events designed to introduce seniors and their families to the Salmon at Medway community. From mixology to cooking, social media to mindfulness, and barre to fun with the grandkids, the *From Our Family...To Yours* series of complimentary virtual events offers something for everyone!

To learn more and reserve your spot, visit:
medwayseniorliving.com/event-calendar

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