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## Residents' appeal granted in lawsuit against town for allegedly not following special town meeting mandate

*Eleven residents say selectmen agreed to terms beyond their discretion*

By THERESA KNAPP

A group of 11 residents who filed a lawsuit against the town for allegedly mishandling a town meeting directive regarding a land purchase at 364 West Street, has won an appeal with the Single Justice of the Appeals Court.

The judge's decision, issued on April 8, 2021 and obtained by Hopedale Town News, reads in part:

- I find that the plaintiffs have demonstrated a likelihood of success in showing that, pursuant to the statutes discussed herein, the select board lacks the authority to purchase the land described in the settlement agreement without an authorization from the town at town meeting.

- I further find that a preliminary injunction pending a determination on the merits would serve the public interest in preventing the unauthorized expenditure of public funds. Consequently, the Hopedale Board of Selectmen is enjoined from issuing any bonds, making any expenditures, paying any costs, or transferring any property interests pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated February 9, 2021, entered into with the Grafton and Upton Railroad, pending final judgement or further order of this court, or a single justice thereof, whichever is first to occur.

**LAWSUIT**

*continued on page 2*



## Hopedale Graduation confirmed for Saturday, June 5, 2021

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# Town Meeting to consider a bylaw amendment to include marijuana cultivation

## Change needed to grant permits in light industry zoning district

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale Town Meeting will be asked to amend the Planning Board's Table of Uses to allow for marijuana cultivation in the town's Light Industry zoning district.

The issue came to light during the permitting process for MACA which signed a host community agreement with Hopedale in June 2019 for a location at 2 Condon Way. The site will be used for cultivation only with no manufacturing or retail sales.

According to town counsel Brian Riley of KP Law in Boston, the current Table of Uses does not provide an avenue to

permit MACA in the light industry zone.

"This came to my attention when I got a call from one of the representatives from MACA," Riley said.

In a decision letter sent to MACA representative Michael M. Kaplan, and discussed at the Board of Selectmen's April 12 meeting, Riley explained that the table lists specific uses allowable in the Commercial and Industrial districts, and includes a "catch-all" category that could be used for marijuana cultivation, but there are no such provisions laid out for the Light Industry district.

Riley says the "bylaw would require amendment to authorize the Building Commissioner and the Planning Board to approve a marijuana cultivation facility in the Light Industry district. This could involve either adding marijuana cultivation specifically



in the Table of Uses, or perhaps changing the catch-all provision for commercial uses to apply to the Light Industry district, as allowed or allowed by special permit."

In order to effect a zoning change, the Planning Board will have to hold a public hearing before the annual town meeting. As of press time, that hearing date was not set. For more information, monitor the town website for a hearing notice, likely the first week in May.

## LAWSUIT

continued from page 1

- The plain language of that statute [G.L. c. 61, § 8] would not appear to authorize the select board to acquire any less than the entirety of the real property subject to the right of first refusal. "No sale of the land shall be consummated if the terms of the sale differ in any material way from the terms of the purchase and sale agreement which accompanied the bona fide offer to purchase as described in the notice of intent to sell except as provided in this section." G. L. c. 61, § 8. Here, the significant reduction in both the acreage of land to be sold and the purchase price as set forth in the settlement agreement constitute a material change in the terms.

- To be clear, I am not deciding this case on the merits; only that the plaintiffs have demonstrate[d] some chance of success on their claim.

(Meade, J.)

Attorney David E. Lurie of Lurie Friedman LLP in Boston represents the residents in Reilly, et al. v. Town of Hopedale, et al.

"We are gratified that the Court vindicated our position," Lurie told Hopedale Town News. "It ruled that the Board of Selectmen acted illegally here, by abandoning the Town's clear right to obtain and preserve 130 acres of forestland and allowing Railroad development on 90 of those acres, without the approval of Town Meeting.

Lurie added, "The Board should do the right thing and proceed to enforce the Town's right to acquire all 130 acres. If it doesn't, we will ask the Court to order that to happen."

The decision was issued on April 8 and was not discussed by the Hopedale Board of Selectmen at its April 12 meeting. It will be a topic in executive session at a special selectmen's meeting on April 20.

In early March, these 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.

In late March, Worcester Superior Court denied their Motion for Preliminary Injunction and the group filed an appeal with the Appeals Court.

### localtownpages

Published Monthly  
Mailed FREE to the  
Community of Hopedale  
Circulation: 2,576  
households & businesses

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Ad Deadline is the  
15th of each month.

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# If your taxes could talk, what would they say?

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You have until May 17th to complete and find out what they say about you. Specifically, what are you doing well and can be done better?

If you don't know, ask your accountant. If he/she can't answer, maybe it's time to get help with tax planning from a Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

A CFP's goal with tax planning is to help clients take proactive steps to save money on their taxes now and help reduce liabilities in the future. Aspects include lowering your AGI (adjusted gross income), leveraging tax deductions, taking advantage of tax credits, tax deferrals and timing of large purchases, sales and realization of income.

Once you're exhaled from completing your taxes, see if these apply for 2021:

**Dedicate space to a home office.** If you're self-employed or started a side-gig, dedicate a section of your house as a home office. Schedule C deductions are many and prorated across several aspects of expenses, maintenance and utilities on your entire home. Additionally, if you build or renovate a home office, there are additional deductions if you're self-employed.

**Working From Home (WFH) becoming permanent.** Is your company changing your role to WFH indefinitely, providing flexibility to move to another state? Understand workers are required to have taxes withheld in accordance with their state's tax rules, regardless of where their employer is located. Also, some states make employers withhold taxes from nonresident employees' wages.

**Adjust your W-4.** If you got a large refund, lower your withholding and do more with your money than letting the government sit on it. Additionally, if both spouses work and one is self-employed, consider raising your W-4 withholding to avoid potential penalties for underpaying estimated taxes on a growing small business.

**Exercising Restricted Stock Units (RSUs).** Did you sell some RSUs and get a large tax bill? Connect with HR to discuss withholding options before your next exercise. Also, learn of the benefits and drawbacks of converting to stock to qualify for long-term, instead of short-term, capital gains.

**Revisit Work Benefits.** You can impact your adjusted gross income (AGI) through 401k contributions as well as funding

a HSA funding, FSA for dental/vision or FSA dependent care. Additionally, you may want to choose Roth instead of Traditional to eliminate future tax liabilities. If you can't make some changes until open enrollment, don't forget if you have a life event (new child, spouse loses or changes job) you have 30 days to revisit and reset your work benefits.

Tax planning is complex, but it doesn't need to be complicated. Work with someone to help you save money, stay organized and reduce liabilities in the future.

*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**

*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.*

# Plant a Tree in Hopedale program moving forward

**Soon residents can name a tree in honor of a loved one**

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Town of Hopedale is in the process of creating a program called Plant a Tree in Hopedale ("PATH") which will enable people to make honorary or memorial donations through the purchase of trees to be planted in town.

The program will be administered by the Tree Warden who will determine the species and location of each tree to be chosen from a limited list of tree species. People can also donate to a gift fund if they would prefer not to choose a specific tree or honoree.

"I heard from the tree warden there is quite a bit of tree planting that is necessary," Town Administrator Diana Schindler told the Board of Selectmen at its April 12 meeting.

The Selectmen expressed their support of the PATH program and a gift account will be created in the near future.

"There is a time-honored tradition of being able to plant trees to make a contribution to the environment," said Carole Mullen who has volunteered to do the administrative work necessary to set up the program. "We have a real need in Hopedale to replace a lot of trees, hopefully people will see this as a way to help the town."



Mullen explained the program is meant to help the Tree Warden purchase supplies noting there are few funds in the town budget for that department which makes it difficult to purchase new trees. Other town departments will help with planting.

Becca Solomon, the town's Tree Warden (and chair of the Hopedale Conservation Committee), attended the selectmen's meeting. "I've heard of this program. It's an excellent program and I would be very much in support of putting this in place."

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# Title work continues regarding ownership of land at end of Overdale Parkway

## Town records show land is likely still under control of Park Commission and cannot be gifted by a private resident

By THERESA KNAPP

Title work continues on who controls the land at the end of Overdale Parkway at the entrance to the Hopedale Parklands.

The ownership issue came to light again earlier this year when developer Richard Lima submitted plans to pave an additional 703 feet of roadway, toward the Parklands and past the town's metal gate, in order to build four houses on the easterly (right-hand) side of the road. A second unnamed developer has proposed six houses on the westerly (left-hand) side of the roadway.

The development 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 Park-

lands from the present end of the pavement on Overdale Parkway...)." There is a question related to the authority of the Larkins to gift the land in question.

After a lengthy conversation at the February meeting, the parties -- the Board of Selectmen; Katherine Klein of KP Law, Hopedale's town counsel; Tom McLaughlin, attorney for Lima, developer of easterly property; and Stephan Rodolakis, attorney for unnamed developer of westerly property -- agreed that more title work was necessary.

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.

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.

Town records show:

• **August 14, 1917:** A letter from the "Town Solicitor" to then Park Commissioner Frank J. Dutcher regarding [generally] roads under the Park Commission's control:

– "A highway cannot be laid out or constructed over a park dedicated to the use of the public, except in the way provided by statute...This has not been done and the road is not a highway but still a part of the park...It would also seem to me desirable to have these streets entirely in control of the park commissioners, so that they could be closed, temporarily or permanently, and their use be subjected to such regulations as may be advantageous in the use of the park.



The development proposed at the end of Overdale Parkway would include paving what is now an unpaved path (a portion shown here) that leads to the entrance to the Parklands and is delineated by a sign and metal gate installed by the Park Commission decades ago. Credit: Theresa Knapp

• **December 31, 1945:** Annual Report of the Park Commissioners regarding the purchase of the land in question at the end of Overdale Parkway:

– "During the year, the Town purchased, for the use of the Park Depart-

### OVERDALE

continued on page 5

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**OVERDALE**

*continued from page 4*

ment, approximately 31.5 acres of land, with a frontage on Overdale Parkway, and adjoining the Old Salt Box and other land already under the jurisdiction of the Park Department.

- **June 24, 1985:** Special Town Meeting was asked to accept the “gift” from the Larkins.
- First draft of the 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...”

- However, the motion had been ruled “out of order” by the moderator on Town Meeting floor
- Special Town Meeting minutes were revised to reflect:
  - “Article 33. Ruled out of order by Moderator, as

Park Commissioner Richard Vitale notified him by letter and in person at this meeting that the Commissioners unanimously voted not to release the land. Town Counsel’s ruling is as follows...Article 33 of the Annual Town Warrant inserted at the request of private citizens seeks to have the Town petition the legislature to release a section of parklands roadway for approximately 800 feet. According to the legal description attached to the warrant the parcel would be approximately 800 feet long and 50 feet wide and

it appears to be intended to lay this out as a public way in order to give frontage and access to certain lots of land which now have no frontage on a public way.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79, Section 5, states “No portion of land taken for or held as park by a Town under Chapter 45 shall be taken or used for a public way, canal, railroad or railway, or for altering or widening the same, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD HAVING CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC PARKS OF SUCH TOWN. [author emphasis]

Hence before taking action on this article it must be determined whether or not such consent to the release

of [this] parcel of land has been given by the Hopedale Board of Park Commissioners and such information must be on file with the Moderator so it can be made a part of the vote and the record regarding this Article.

Motion of Attorney Antonellis to Pass Over was voted by unanimous voice vote.”

At the selectmen’s meeting in February, Don Howes, chairman of the current Park Commission said the unpaved accessway is under his commission’s jurisdiction.

The issue was on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen’s April 12 meeting but it was postponed because they have not received the title search results. Selectmen are expected to discuss it at their next meeting on May 10.

# Hopedale DECA Competes at States Competition

Covid-19 did not stop this year’s Hopedale DECA students from continuing to learn new business skills outside of school and competing at rigorous competitions.

This year, 41 Hopedale students qualified to compete at the DECA State Competition! Although the events were held virtually, students still competed in business case study role plays or submitted written research projects and presentations. They also participated in a variety of learning opportunities such as opening and closing ceremonies, leadership workshops, live quiz bowl competitions, and more. Eight teams placed top 12. As well as the Integrated marketing team placing 5th, and the Project Manage-

ment team placing 2nd! These two team have earned a spot to compete at The Virtual International DECA Competition.

DECA is a nonprofit international club for high school and college students that is organized around an ambitious goal: to improve educational and career opportunities in marketing, management, finance, hospitality, and entrepreneurship for students. DECA has existed for nearly 75 years and has close to 220,000 student members. Locally, Hopedale DECA is comprised of close to 60 members!

The opportunity to compete at the state competition would not be possible without the support from the incredible sponsors of our program. On

behalf of Hopedale DECA, we would like to thank this year’s gold-level sponsors for their generosity, donating \$100 or more towards the state competitors. This year’s gold sponsors include CFP Law, Water St. Meat Market, RJ Gallerani, Bright Insurance, Afonso Real Estate, Consigli Construction, Alavi & Braza PC, Astin’s Auto Service, Embroidery Bar, Daniel F. Campion, Attorney At Law, b.Luxe Hair and Makeup, Gallerani Construction, Total Granola, and Boston Billing Solutions. Congratulations to all competing students at the state competition and thank you again to our incredible sponsors.

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# We're Not In Bedrock and You're Not with The Flintstones

By DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES, COUNSELORS AT LAW

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The word "Bedrock" also means strength. Being strong is something we all want to achieve. One way of getting there is to view your life in three facets such as depicted on a pyramid. The pyramid, as we view it, represents our **health, finances, and legacy**. Beneath this pyramid is the **bedrock of our core values**: the fundamental beliefs we hold dear. These guiding principles dictate our behavior and help

us know the difference between right and wrong. Ideally, we share our core values with our loved ones. However, during this past year, core values have sometimes taken a back seat to the topsyturvy COVID-19 landscape. Principles and beliefs, while still important, can get lost in the mere challenge of navigating through COVID-19 restrictions, sickness, and turmoil. Likewise, career, finances, relationships, and yes, our mental and physical well-being in general have been jumbled. Worry and fear have become the norm for many. **Are you one of the many who have suffered through sleepless nights?**

Nevertheless, beneath all of this, you still have your bedrock of core values. This is where we can help in making sure you stay on a straight path in your health, financial and legacy pyramid, despite all you have been through.

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of Covid-19, we're here to help you explore and share your core values with loved ones. We offer **unique discovery counseling opportunities** with proven health, life, disability, estate, and asset protection planning processes to help guide you successfully through the COVID-19 landscape and other challenges you and your family may face.

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generations to come. Your legacy can be a fantastic legacy to pass along! It is prudent, today more than ever, to protect your health, home, spouse, family, life savings, and legacy. In these continued times of COVID-19, you owe it to yourself and those year hold dear. Don't let this Bedrock opportunity pass you by!

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## Selectmen Recognize Dr. Vincent Arone's 100th Birthday

### Dr. Arone celebrated 100 years in March

By THERESA KNAPP

On March 25, 2021, Dr. Vincent Arone of Hopedale turned 100 years old.

In a letter to the Board of Selectmen, the Council on Aging shared this interesting information about Dr. Arone:

- In 1960, he founded the Ledges School in Hopedale, established for children and adults with disabilities (first as a camp, then as a school)

- He has an active town resident in many ways including serving on the Hopedale School Committee and a board member of the Hopedale Foundation
- He is a congregant of Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale
- He, along with his wife Marie who passed in 2005, raised their five children in Hopedale; he also has 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren



**In 1960, Dr. Arone founded The Ledges as a summer camp for children and young adults living with autism. Soon, it became a year-round facility and today provides services to approximately 40 adults living with development, physical and medical disabilities.** Source: [www.theledges.org](http://www.theledges.org)

At their March 22 meeting, selectmen Louis Arcudi III and Chairman Brian Keyes wished Dr. Arone a happy birthday.



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Days to Celebrate * May 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mother Goose Day
2 National Brothers & Sisters Day	3 Public Radio Day	4 National Teacher Day	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	6 National Nurses Day	7 International Tuba Day	8 National Coconut Cream Pie Day
9 <b>Mother's Day</b>	10 National Small Business Day	11 Twilight Zone Day	12 National Limerick Day	13 <b>Tulip Day</b>	14 National Dance Like a Chicken Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day
16 Wear <b>Purple</b> for Peace Day	17 Massachusetts Tax Filing Deadline	18 International Museum Day	19 <b>World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day</b>	20 National Rescue Dog Day	21 National Waiters & Waitresses Day	22 <b>Int'l Day for Biological Diversity</b>
23 World Turtle Day	24 Scavenger Hunt Day	25 National Wine Day	26 Sally Ride Day	27 National Grape Popsicle Day	28 National Hamburger Day	29 Learn About Composting Day
30 World Multiple Sclerosis Day	31 <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>May is...</b> ALS Awareness Month Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Brain Cancer & Brain Tumor Awareness Month		Celiac Disease Awareness Month Home Schooling Awareness Month Jewish American Heritage Month Mental Health Month Nat'l Lyme Disease Awareness Month Nat'l Military Appreciation Month		Nat'l Motorcycle Awareness Month Nat'l Photography Month Nat'l Stroke Awareness Month Nat'l Walking Month Nat'l Wild Fire Awareness Month Older Americans Month

Credit: Theresa Knapp for Local Town Pages

# Opening Summer 2021

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# Hopedale officially designated a "Green Community"

## Designation includes an initial grant of \$137,759 for energy improvements

By THERESA KNAPP

The Town of Hopedale has officially been designated a "Green Community" by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. The signs should arrive in the next 60 days.

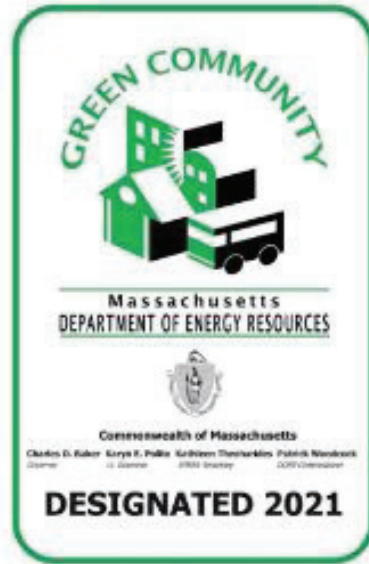
Hopedale is one of nine communities just added to the list of 280 participating Massachusetts communities. The other newly-designated towns include Braintree, Clinton, Falmouth, Norton, Princeton, Rowley, Walpole, and West Stockbridge.

The designation starts with an initial grant of \$137,759 which is a base grant of \$125,000 "plus an amount adjusted for population and income."

"We have projects on our energy reduction plan that we would like to submit," Town Administrator Diana Schindler told the Board of Selectmen at its April 12 meeting. "After this grant, we would have to file for competitive grants," specifically mentioning the hope to replace LED interior lighting at the library and the police department.

"This is fantastic, a huge win," said Board of Selectmen Chairman Brian Keyes.

According to mass.gov, "Green Communities are eligible to apply for grants to implement energy conservation measures that help them cut energy use and costs. They track their actual energy use and costs, acquire



Four "Green Community" signs similar to these will arrive from the state in the next month or two.

fuel-efficient vehicles as required by their Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy, and ensure new construction activities are in compliance with the Stretch Energy Code."

For more information, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/being-a-green-community](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/being-a-green-community)

### PROPOSED "GREEN" PROJECT LIST

In its application for the "Green Community" designation, the town proposed the following projects (though it is not limited to this list):

#### FY21-FY23

- Memorial ES Weatherization
- Memorial ES Pumps and VFDs
- JRHS/SRHS Weatherization
- JRHS/SRHS Pumps and VFDs
- JRHS/SRHS Demand Controlled Ventilation
- Park Pre-K Weatherization
- Park Pre-K LED Interior Lighting
- Fire Station Weatherization
- Fire Station Pumps and VFDs
- WWTP Weatherization
- Library LED Interior Lighting
- Fuel efficient vehicle replacement(s)

#### FY24-FY25

- Memorial ES Boiler Replacement
- Memorial ES LED Interior Lighting
- JRHS/SRHS LED Interior Lighting
- Library Weatherization
- WTP Weatherization
- Police Station LED Interior Lighting
- Town Hall LED Interior Lighting
- Town Hall Weatherization
- Fuel efficient vehicle replacement(s)

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# Parents, caregivers community programs by SPARK

SPARK Kindness is excited to present new programs in our FREE Resilient Community Spring series. The month of May means new opportunities for parents, caregivers, community members, and students to connect and learn about how we can build a more kind and inclusive community together. We invite you to join us at one of our free upcoming events below, or explore our resources at SPARKKindness.org. Further, if you would like to get involved in this work of promoting kindness, please email us at info@spark-kindness.org. Hope to see you at a program soon!



**SPARK Kindness presents**  
a **FREE virtual program**  
on **May 25th at 7pm ET**



**ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP:**  
How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed the World

with author + activist  
**Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins**

Register and learn more about this FREE online program and more by visiting  
**SPARKKindness.org**

Special Appreciation to our Spotlight Community Partners



## How to Take CONTROL of your Life, and Let Go of the Rest

Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm via Zoom — For the entire community

Award-winning bilingual journalist and author of Perfectly You: Embracing the Power of Being Real, Mariana Atencio will tell you how to achieve what you want in your life through inner strength, innovation, self-control, and a proven formula to increase productivity, well-being, and success on your own terms. This program will be offered in Spanish with simultaneous ASL

and English translation.

## All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed the World

Tuesday, May 25 at 7pm via Zoom — For elementary and middle school students and their parents/caregivers, educators and community members of all

ages

Celebrated disability rights activist and author Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins will share her award winning book, All the Way to the Top which addresses the struggle for inclusion and the fight for equality in our country. Ms. Keelan-Chaffins will also encourage young people to use their voices to make a positive difference. ASL interpretation will be provided at this event.



**SPARK Kindness presents**  
a **FREE virtual program**  
on **May 11th at 7pm ET**



**How to take control of your life and let go of the rest**

with **Mariana Atencio**

Register and learn more about this FREE online program and more by visiting  
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- \* Please contact me by phone or text at 508-902-7382 or email me at Jlkg7382@gmail.com




## Meditation and Tai Chi Classes Return to the Senior Center

The Hopedale Sr. Center will resume Meditation and Tai Chi classes outside on the Community House Patio beginning in May. **Classes will be weather dependent.**

**Tai Chi with Jean** Tuesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
\$5.00 per class. May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Meditation with Deb** Wednesdays 11:00 am - 12 pm  
\$5.00 per class. May 5, 12, 19, 26

We will require that participants :

- Wear masks while participating in these activities
- Practice Social Distancing
- Enter the building through handicapped ramp door
- Go directly through hall to outside patio area
- Use handicapped bathroom if needed

Please be aware that the Sr. Center Office is "open by appointment" only. Your payment for classes will be collected by the instructor and placed in an envelope prior to the start of the class. **Please bring exact payment. We do not have the capacity to make change.**



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# Hopedale - Bancroft Memorial Library News

## Memorial Day

The Bancroft Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

## AAA Safety Series for Families

Join us for a safety checkup in May with three educational programs presented by AAA Northeast.

The first is Under the Hood/Car Care 101 with John Paul, AAA's Car Doctor, on Monday, May 3, at 6pm. Learn about basic car maintenance you can do yourself and get some safety tips as well.

The second program is Bike and Pedestrian Safety on Wednesday, May 12, at 6pm. This program provides tips and information for the whole family to stay safe walking and biking around town.

The final program in the series is called Distracted Driving on Wednesday, May 19, at 6 pm. This program is designed to help all drivers understand the risks of distractions and get tips to avoid becoming a distracted driver.

Pre-registration is required for all programs. Zoom links will be sent the afternoon of the program. Registration closes at 5pm the day of the program.

## May is Mental Health Month

Join us this month for conversations about mental health issues and try meditation for relaxation and health in honor of Mental Health Month. We will have professionals presenting Zoom informational lectures from Crossroads Clubhouse, a Service of Riverside Community Care in Hopedale, and Community Impact, Inc. in Milford. Check our website for more information and to register.

## Meditation Made Easy

In this sample class, we will explore a variety of techniques, including working with the breath, body sensations, thoughts and emotions. By learning to apply a strategy, we can quiet and focus the mind in order to bring relaxation, improved health and increased creativity and joy into our lives. Practices may include sound meditation, mantras and metta for loving kindness. Class will begin with seated gentle stretches which help to prepare the body to sit comfortably and peacefully. After a short practice, there will be time for Q and A. Led by local instructor Debra McGonnell on May 4, at 6 pm.

## Identifying Addiction and Seeking Treatment

Join us on Zoom on Thursday, May 11, at 6 pm for an informative discussion about addiction, its signs and its treatment. Local addiction counselor, Amy Leone, will share information about addiction as well as information on preventing addiction and seeking treatment.

Also, check our website for programming later in the month from Crossroads/Riverside Community Care and a Yoga for Anxiety Program from Community Impact, Inc.

## Virtual Programming

Looking for more virtual programming? Check out programming for the entire state on the new calendar tool on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners website at <https://libraries.state.ma.us/calendar/>. Make sure to register with the hosting library in advance.

## Tween/Teen Take and Make Craft

May is for flowers and .... Mothers! Please let us help you



make May 9, more special for Mom. Moms love homemade gifts! How about making a Best Mom Ever wall hanging for that special Mom or Mom substitute in your life? The kit will contain a 5x7 frame, flowers, ribbon, card stock and lettering along with instructions. All you will need is washable markers, a 1-gallon ziplock bag, a spray bottle with water and hot glue. Please email [hopedalelibrary@cwmar.org](mailto:hopedalelibrary@cwmar.org) to reserve a Best Mom Ever kit. Kits will be available on April 28.

## 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.

Travel with us to the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky in the 1930s as we discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes on Wednesday, May 5, at 1 p.m. 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.

In June, the Group will read Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman*. Erdrich's grandfather Patrick Gourneau was part of the first generation born on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. As the chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in the mid-1950s, he had to use all the political savvy he could muster to dissuade Utah Sen. Arthur V. Watkins from reneging on long-held treaties between Native Americans and the federal government. Erdrich's grandfather is the inspiration for her novel's protagonist, Thomas Wazhushk, the night watchman of the title. In *The Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich weaves together a story of past and future generations, of preservation and progress. She grapples with the worst and best impulses of human nature, illuminating the loves and lives, desires and ambitions of her characters with compassion, wit and intelligence.

## Friends of the Hopedale Library

Looking for something to read? The Friends of the Hopedale Library is offering a \$5 Bag Book Sale. 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](mailto: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

### Summer Reading 2021 – Tails and Tales!

Be on the lookout for information about our Summer Reading Program for 2021! The theme is Tails and Tales and we have lots of fun activities planned. Registration for the reading program and activities will begin the week of June 21.

## Star Wars Day Take and Make Craft

May the Fourth be with you! Come in on May 4, and pick up a Star Wars -themed craft to celebrate!

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>.



**Sacred Heart Church "Twice Blessed" Thrift Shop**

During the Covid-19 Pandemic our thoughts and prayers are with all who are directly impacted as well as the First Responders and Essential Workers.

**GRAND REOPENING, SATURDAY, MAY 1st**  
**New Store Hours (Starting May 1st)**  
**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (First Saturday each month)**

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[sacredhearthopedale.org](http://sacredhearthopedale.org)

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# Living Healthy

## Milford -Franklin Eye Center

### No need to travel for your Eyecare

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. If your optometrist is still asking you to travel for eyecare to far away practices, be aware of this optometrist bias and call us for a second opinion.

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 Massachu-

setts 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, Bachelor 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 great management focused on quality customer care. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home. Are they still asking you to travel hours to other practices? Call us: We are available for a second opinion.

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## Selectmen meeting schedule set for 2021-2022

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Board of Selectmen has set its meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The board typically meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, currently via Zoom but typically at Town Hall in the Draper Room.

Days may vary based on holidays; frequency varies in July and August. Scheduled dates include:

2021	2022
July 12	Jan. 10 and 24
Aug. 9	Feb. 14 and 28
Sept. 13 and 27	March 14 and 28
Oct. 12* and 25	April 11 and 25
Nov. 8 and 22	May 9 and 23
Dec. 13 and 27	June 13 and 27

\* October 12, 2021, is a Tuesday

### FREE Grab & Go Meal

Tues. May 18, 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:

Meatloaf w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed

Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail & Cookie

Sign-up required by 5/13/2021

Meals made possible through United Way grant.



## Hopedale Election Hours Announced

Hours shortened again this year

By THERESA KNAPP

This year's annual town election will take place on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the George Albert Draper Gymnasium, 18 Dutcher Street.

Town leaders say the shortened voting hours worked well last year when they were shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents continue to have the option to vote by absentee ballot.

The last day to register to vote in the annual town election is May 1. For a vote by mail application or more information, visit the town [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov). As of press time, a specimen ballot was not available.



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# Sports

## New Hopedale Coach Looking to Get Team Back to The Finals

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kevin Bresciani has lived in the town of Hopedale his entire life and his family has a deep-rooted history within the town. Now the 2015 alumni will be taking over the baseball team he once played for under Coaches Small and Crescenzi.

The Blue Raider alum began playing sports for Hopedale in the seventh grade where he was part of the soccer team, the three-time district finals basketball team, where they captured one championship and two-time district champion baseball squad. The baseball team was one out away from capturing a State Title with Bresciani and his teammates.

Following high school, the Hopedale native went onto play baseball for Bridgewater State University where the catcher and occasional pitcher, hit .398 during his senior campaign and was named the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) catcher of the year. Right after college he was the Assistant Baseball Coach at Worcester State before landing his ideal job back home in Hopedale.

“The previous Coach (Josh Crescenzi) helped me to land the Hopedale job. When I had heard the job had opened up, I was super excited. Being an PE teacher, I knew that I wanted to coach, and this was the perfect opportunity,” Bresciani said. “Having family history in the town, coaching here means ev-

erything to me as I get to represent Hopedale.”

Crescenzi who had the luxury of coaching Bresciani on the junior varsity as well as the varsity level.

“Not only was Kevin one of the most talented baseball players I’ve coached, but he was also one of my favorite people,” the former Blue Raider Coach said. “Not only was he a great defensive catcher he also had the offensive skills as well. With him behind the plate it was like having another coach on the field.”

When Crescenzi decided to step down as the Head Coach there was only one person, he believed totally capable of taking the reins of the team.

“After I realized that this year was not going to work for me as my kids were starting to play sports themselves and I was to Coach their t-ball and soccer teams I decided to step down,” he said. “My first call was to Stephanie (Ridolfi, Hopedale Athletic Director) and second to Kevin. It was a hard decision but the best for my family. Now that it’s in Kevin hands I am more than confident that it was the right decision.”

With an athlete that had played for Hopedale in numerous District Tournaments the Blue Raiders are looking to take to heart Bresciani’s tutelage and not only get into the tournament but win it. Two years ago, the Blue Raiders lost to Tahanto in the District 4 Central Finals. This year’s squad will be made up of seniors who were sophomores on

that team in 2019.

The new coach is optimistic about the team’s chances with the amount of talent he has returning to the diamond. Under the Covid restrictions, the baseball season will be played under a bunch of unfamiliar rules as well as in pods, but at this time Hopedale is not sure who they will take on in their pod.

“Giving the athletes a chance to play competitive baseball once again (last season was cancelled due to the pandemic) is at the top of their priority,” Bresciani said. “The MIAA also noted that there will be some sort of tournament play despite the shortening of the season. This is great as it give the players something to play for and they are deserving of that after losing last year.”

While the season nor tryouts had begun at the time of this writing, the incoming coach did know of a few of the returning athletes that will lead his squad back into a deep tournament run.

Alex Luccini, who has already committed to play for UMASS Lowell, will be behind the plate once again for his senior campaign and provide the team with exceptional leadership. Two other seniors Sean Ryan and John McDonough will also be returning to suit up for the Blue Raiders this spring. The two will not only see action on the mound this season, but Ryan will also play some infield while McDonough will play the infield as well as the outfield when he’s not pitching. The duo were impor-



tant pieces to Hopedale’s playoff run as sophomores the last time they were able to lace up the cleats.

Junior middle infielder Will Parker will also see some action as part of the pitching staff in the upcoming season.

In addition to the new Covid regulations, the MIAA has added a pitch count on pitchers, a rule that was supposed to be initiated last year. It’s a rule that will allow coaches to only use their pitchers over a certain number of innings per week, thus not allowing high school coaches to overuse a kid and jeopardize his arm.

Spending focus on college baseball the years prior Bresciani is unfamiliar with what is going on with a lot of the DVC teams, but is looking forward to getting back on the field allowing the athletes to play one more season of baseball for Hopedale.

“After missing last year, the kids are defiantly hungry and ready to work,” said the new coach. “They are looking forward to putting on that Hopedale uniform and representing their team once again.”



Looking to advertise  
your business?

Contact Jeremy: 413-204-5296

jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com

### New England Steak & Seafood Restaurant



Make Your Mother’s Day  
Reservations NOW!

9 Seating Times Available

12:00 noon	2:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

Route 16, Mendon  
508-473-5079 | 508-478-0871  
www.nesteakandseafood.com

# Here are some ways to celebrate Mother's Day this year..

Things to do on Sunday, May 9, (or any day) to celebrate the mothers in your life:

- Bake bread then break bread
- Bicycle ride
- Board Games
- Breakfast in Bed
- Chocolate Fondue Night - everything is sweeter when dipped in chocolate
- Clean Mom's car
- Clean your room/space (really well)
- Facebook tribute - say thanks to Mom on social media
- Family photoshoot - be sure Mom is in the photos (and send them to her so she can share with her friends)
- Finish a DIY project
- Flowers
- Garden party - invite some of her friends over for lunch
- Handmade cards (regardless of your age)
- Host a virtual Mother's Day celebration with anyone who can't be there
- Karaoke session of Mom's favorite songs
- Manicure-pedicures at home
- Mother's Day-themed movie marathon - including "Because I Said So" and "The Joy Luck Club"
- Museum Tour - National Museum of National History, Van Gogh Museum, etc.
- Picnic - Plan and pack a picnic for the backyard or a favorite destination
- Plant - choose and plant together something in her garden (flowers, shrub, etc.)
- Quiet time - offer Mom some quiet time
- Scavenger Hunt
- Sleep - let Mom sleep in!
- Surprise her in any way you can
- Write a letter, poem, story for Mom

Sources: [travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours](http://travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours)  
Compiled by Theresa Knapp

## Hopedale's Sr. Center Van is available for rides for seniors and disabled adults.

Seniors and disabled adults who don't drive and need transportation may use the Sr. Center van to go grocery shopping, personal shopping or get to the bank, hair salon, barber or other local non-medical destinations.

The current van schedule is:

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

**9:00 am - 2:00 pm (Times and dates subject to availability of the driver.)**

The cost for most roundtrips is \$3.00. Please call to schedule an appointment at least forty-eight (48) hours before your appointment.

***If you would like to use the Hopedale Sr. Center van you must register as a van rider by calling the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208. The van will come directly to your home and pick you up!***

Please remember that we have a separate van service for medical appointments and prescription pick-ups. Call the Sr. Center directly at (508)634-2208 for rides to your medical appointments.

### COVID-19 Requirements:

All van riders will be required to:

- Answer screening questions
- Have temperature taken
- Wear a mask
- Use hand-sanitizer before taking a seat

The van's high-contact surfaces will be wiped-down with sanitizing cloths between trips. There is a two (2) person maximum on each trip. Please let us know if you have particular questions or concerns. We can assist with your van rider registration.

The van is available through a partnership between the town of Hopedale and The MetroWest Regional Transit Authority. The service offers Hopedale residents a wonderful opportunity for expanded transportation services. Spread the word.



## 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.

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday May 22, 2021

Outside - Community House

Afternoon Meeting

Time to be Announced



Designated Senior Citizen parking will be available on Draper St. (between the Community House and the Unitarian Church.

The Sr. Center will be distributing special parking placards. Please contact us at (508)634-2208 prior to Town Meeting.

# Real Estate Corner



6 Oak View Lane in Hopedale recently sold for \$591,426 Image credit: www.zillow.com

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
March 18	4 Evergreen Lane #4	\$450,000
March 19	11 Spruce Circle	\$630,000
March 25	18 Hill Street	\$245,000
March 26	5 Dana Park	\$345,000
April 9	6 Oak View Lane	\$590,000
April 12	313 S Main Street	\$375,000,
April 15	80 Dutcher Street	\$335,000
April 15	106 Mendon Street	\$389,000
April 16	17 Ballou Road	\$555,000

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



Jack Broderick  
Realtor, ABR



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Office: 508-478-7286  
Fax: 508-478-0664  
jbroderickhomes@comcast.net  
jbroderick@afonsore.com  
www.afonsorealestate.com

**RUN YOUR ADS WITH US! CALL JEREMY 413-204-5296**

# BACK <sup>to</sup> BUSINESS

Coming July 2021  
Space reservation: June 1

The landscape of business as we know it has dramatically changed, but now we are starting to shift gears and open back up. Local Town Pages offers an outlet for business owners with *Back to Business* - a cost effective and strategic way to place your business back in the mind of consumers.

Reach more than 80,000 homes this July!

Reserve your space today by contacting Jeremy Wardwell at 413-204-5296 or by email at [jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com](mailto:jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com)

**localtownpages**

Yes We're  
**OPEN**



# 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!



### Car Banner



5' x 3' Vinyl Banner with grommets for hanging or attaching **from \$40**

### Door Banner

30" x 72" Vinyl Banner with grommets for hanging. **from \$45**



### Yard Sign



36" x 24" Coroplast sign, single sided with H-Stake.

**from \$25**

*If you are a photographer interested in offering these unique products to your clients, let's chat!*

### TO ORDER:

1. Visit [www.ourtownpublishing.com](http://www.ourtownpublishing.com)
2. Select from our great customizable offerings from our graduation products page.
3. Upload your high resolution photo.
4. Fill out credit card information.
5. Choose pick-up in Medway or ship direct.
6. Surprise your Grad!



For more information or group pricing, contact Andrew Carini at [andrew@ourtownpublishing.com](mailto:andrew@ourtownpublishing.com).



One entry per day/per person.  
Contest open  
May 1 - 20, 2021

## WITH OUR GIFT CARD GIVE-A-WAYS!

Explore our new website [hopedaletownnews.com](http://hopedaletownnews.com) and enter to win a \$100 gift card to



Winner will be chosen at random and posted on facebook.com on May 21.

**Congratulations to our April Winner: Theresa Gentile**