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July 2021

*The Voice of Your Community*



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Inside...

## Select Board Accept Deeds to End of Overdale Parkway

*Action paves the way for development of 10 homes*

BY THERESA KNAPP

After review of a recent title search, and on the advice of Town Counsel, the majority of the Hopedale Select Board voted to officially accept the deeds to 703 feet at the end of Overdale Parkway, an action town voters approved in 1985 but that was never implemented.

Chairman of the Select Board Brian Keyes and member Louis Arcudi III voted in favor; member Glenda Hazard, who was voted back onto the board in the May election, was opposed.

"I have come to the conclusion, the overwhelming evidence is that Overdale Parkway is

under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and we have a recent May 18, 2021, title opinion from Gould Title Company...that the roadway itself is not under the jurisdiction of the Park Commissioners," said Hopedale's town counsel Katherine Klein of KP Law PC, adding the land was conveyed over 100 years ago. "I think there was an error when this vote was written but I think the intent is clear. The road is clearly identified, we all know what is being discussed, it is the last 703 feet of Overdale Parkway; and the fact that the Larkins are no longer the owners is immaterial."

The two-hour discussion included the selectmen; Klein;



Thomas McLaughlin, attorney for Ricardo Lima, the developer of the easterly property; Stephan

**PARKWAY**

*continued on page 2*

## Select Board Welcomes Hazard Back, Arcudi Phasing Off

*Hazard returns to board after resigning in February*

BY THERESA KNAPP

Glenda Hazard was re-elected to the Select Board in the May election. Hazard first won the seat in a special election in December 2020, and then had to resign in February due to family obligations.

In the election, Hazard received 475 votes and opponent Kaplan Hasanoglu received 314 votes. There were also two write-ins and 24 blanks. Hazard will serve a three-year term.

Current selectmen Brian Keyes and Louis Arcudi III welcomed Hazard back to the board at their May 24, 2021 meeting, the first after the election.

During a discussion about who would serve as Chairman of the Select Board, Arcudi, who has

served on various town boards and committees for 32 years, re-stated (as he did when he took out his nomination papers in 2019), this would be his final year on the board and he would not run for re-election when his term expires in 2022.

"As people know, I'm in the process of selling my company and I'm starting a very new and exciting venture in the summer, and I feel that it would be unfair to both Brian and to Glenda, but more importantly to the taxpayers of Hopedale...I won't have the time actually to devote to being chairman," Arcudi said, adding he is not sure where this new venture will take him over the next 12 months.

Keyes was reappointed as chairman.

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**PARKWAY***continued from page 1*

Rodolakis of Fletcher Tilton PC, attorney for Black Brook Realty owned by John Burns, the developer of the westerly property; and the public.

The majority of the discussion was a 90-minute public comment segment where several issues were raised including possible selectman impropriety (Arcudi and Lima are neighbors, town counsel saw no appearance of impropriety or partiality), some clarification on a previous judge's ruling in the matter (a crucial 1985 document was not presented when this matter was in court in 2003), consideration of overall costs of the development to the town versus speculated tax income (estimated at "\$100,000 a year, maybe more"), and concern the proposed development will negatively affect the Hopedale Parklands now and in the future.

"We only have so many areas/options to selectively develop, whether it be industrial, com-

mercial, or residential, this happens to be one of them. It's 10 parcels and it's an opportunity to move forward with a pretty exciting project but one that's fairly small in nature when you look at the grand scheme of things," said Keyes. "If we're going to rule out every single time a development project comes up -- then we're coming off two overrides and a debt exclusion conversation over the last three years -- I don't know what you want us to do."

Arcudi restated the request before the selectmen was to accept the gifted deeds per a 1985 town meeting directive that was never fulfilled. He said the future development of the land would be overseen by various town boards and encouraged residents to participate in that process.

When asked why she was opposed to the motion, Hazard said, "One of the things that bothers me is it's zoned 'residential'...I think in the interest of trying to represent the residents on Overdale, I feel like I need to vote 'no.'"

Keyes said he was "disappointed by the lack of solidarity" of the board.

With the town's acceptance of the deeds, Lima can file to develop four house lots and Black Brook Realty can pursue six house lots (those are on the Mendon side of the road).

Rodolakis, Black Brook's attorney, said his client could have built more houses on his parcel but will limit it to six; Black Brook and Lima will create a cul-de-sac that will accommodate "four or five" parking spots for the Parklands; and Black Brook will deed to the town, or impose a conservation restriction on, "the balance of the property located in Hopedale that is not necessary for the development of his six lots" which will protect it from future development.

# Select Board: Lawmakers to Petition State for Name Change

## Town Meeting voted to update name of town's governing body

BY THERESA KNAPP

Residents voted at the Annual Town Meeting in May to petition the state legislature to change the name of Hopedale's executive arm of government from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board."

Town officials will now petition lawmakers to file the necessary legislation to make the change.

Earlier this year, Brian Keyes, Chairman of the then-Board of Selectmen, said the name change "reflects diversity, equality, and inclusion." The Board first approved the name change in 2019 but the next step was not taken. The issue was brought forward again in December 2020 when selectwoman Glenda Hazard was elected to the board.



Ironically, Hopedale had been at the forefront of equality in the mid-1800s when it was a utopian society, according to *"The Role of Women in Hopedale, a Nineteenth-Century Universalist-Unitarian Utopian Community in South-Central Massachusetts"* by Deirdre Corcoran Stam (www.hope1842.com).

"In the communal Massachusetts society known as Hopedale, existing formally from 1841 to 1856, women were granted an extraordinary range of rights

comparable to those enjoyed by men, including holding office, owning property, and enjoying civil protection even within marriage. Women played a major role in civic engagement and intellectual life..."

The proposed name change better reflects modern times, and also reflects similar actions taken recently in Milford, Mendon, Bellingham, Grafton, Sutton, and many other towns around the Commonwealth.

In 2020, the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association (est. 1929) changed its name to the Massachusetts Select Board Association "to reflect a movement among towns to adopt a gender-neutral name for their elected policy board," according to www.mma.org.

# Hopedale Appointments and Acknowledgments

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has appointed Suzanne MacNeil to the town's Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee for an unexpired term. MacNeil is a project manager for a solar installation company, and she told the Select Board her appointment is like coming full circle, 30 years later.

"In sixth grade, I actually presented to the selectmen a project on what I would do with the Draper Building if I ever got the chance." MacNeil said her proposal was a

not-yet-coined "mixed-use" project that included a shopping mall and housing complex.

Other recent appointments and resignations include:

Appointed Scott Savage to the Zoning Board of Appeals, filling the position vacated by Steve Gallagher. The appointment effective June 14, 2021, for the remainder of a three-year term.

In a joint meeting with the Planning Board, named Michael Costanza to the Planning Board after the resignation of Eli Leino (who moved out of town) effective

June 14, 2021, through the next town election in May 2022.

Accepted with regret the resignation of Ed Holland Jr. from the Board of Assessors.

Acknowledged the Library Director Robyn York has resigned and a replacement is being sought; a library page will also be hired.

The board also acknowledged the many years of community service of Donald W. Howes whose recent campaign to retain his seat as Park Commissioner was unsuccessful.

Selectperson Louis Arcudi III referred to Howes as "Mr. Hopedale" and thanked Howes for his many years of stewardship and the amount of time and effort and passion he had as a Park Commissioner and as chair of that commission "and everything else he does for the town."

"Don dedicated every ounce of his day, if he wasn't working, to try to do something good for the Parklands," said Arcudi.

Selectperson Brian Keyes also thanked Howes for his service. "I'm glad that Mr. Howes is serving in other capacities," adding "his efforts were greatly, greatly appreciated."

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# Take this job and shove it!? Measure twice, cut once.

More workers are quitting their jobs than at any time in at least two decades.

The Wall Street Journal shared how professionals are burned out from extra pandemic workloads and stress, while others prefer the flexibility of remote work.

Given my recent engagements, there are new perspectives on health, family, and time. Less focus on “earning more, to do more”, but what needs to happen for a new lifestyle while maintaining future goals. Some seek semi-retirement (less pay and responsibilities, more freedoms), others full retirement in their 40’s or 50’s.

Before firing off a resignation, consider the financial and family impact. A few (of the many) items examined:

**Employer benefits are left behind and taxation created?**

Health and life insurance comparisons are important, but a greater impact is on the values and taxation on RSUs, ESPP, pension, and deferred compensation distributions.

Also, bonuses. Is your current firm far-exceeding ‘21 plan and you’ll forfeit by leaving? Will the new firm offer prorated bonus eligibility?

If over 55 but under age 59 ½ and need income from oversized retirement accounts, pause on rolling over all of your 401(k) until you understand IRS Rule of 55.

**Buying a new home or refinancing?** When applying for a mortgage, refinance, or HELOC, lenders base decisions on many factors, including consistency of earned income. Witness a few days before closing, they will again ask for a most recent paystub.

If you plan to earn less or become self-employed, this can limit your ability to borrow or refinance. Thus, timing is equally important as the desire for a change.

**Will the new employer’s gross stay greener?** Firms seeking talent are being aggressive with benefits and amenities. Part is due to retention of their own talent, so what do things look like in a year?

Are promotions as frequent? Are “team-building” events still posting every Friday on LinkedIn?

Are you still fully, or partially, remote?

**What is your cash flow in 2024, 2026, or with kids in college?** Entering investments into a “retirement calculator” is nice, but it’s the equivalent of checking tire pressure and declaring a car will be fine in 5 years.

Want confidence in sending your resignation?

Run various cash flow analyses with a CFP encompassing income, assets (growth, taxation), liabilities (rates, maturity), expenses, taxes, entitlements, and experience spending goals. Add stress tests by planning for the unexpected and sequence of investment returns.

Beyond understanding data, it’s critical all household members are engaged throughout and desire the “why” behind the change.

With cash flow models, family buy-in, and a focus on well-being, now have an honest conversation with your manager. If the firm says, “Sorry, but...”, personally thank your manager and make sure to log off Zoom before playing Johnny Paycheck or the Dead Kennedys cover.

*The opinions voiced in this material*



**Glenn Brown**

*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.*

## Update on Lawsuit Regarding 364 West Street

### Judgment expected in the fall

BY THERESA KNAPP

A citizens’ lawsuit against the town related to property at 364 West Street is still pending.

prepared statement from Town Counsel Brian Riley of KP Law PC which said, in part:

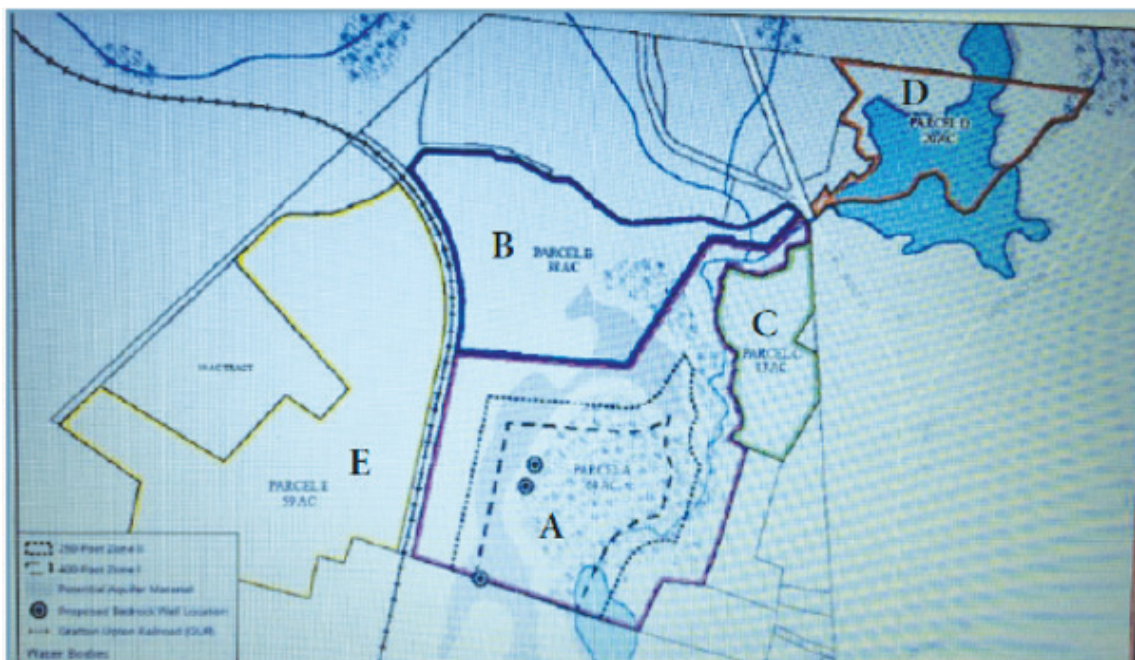
“The plaintiff’s response to

erty and avoid further litigation with the [Grafton and Upton] Railroad, it would be pursuant to the settlement agreement.”

Keyes added, “Two of the members of the Board stand behind the settlement agreement...nothing’s changed in

Board did not have town meeting authorization to enter into the settlement agreement it reached with the Grafton and Upton Railroad for purchase of land at and near 364 West

Street because that agreement consisted of fewer acres than the 155 acres voted for purchase by an October 2020 special town meeting.



Town officials say the legal issues should go before the Superior Court over the summer with a judgment expected in the fall.

At a meeting of the Select Board on May 24, 2021, Chairman Brian Keyes read a

the town’s motion is due by June 1, then all papers get filed with Superior Court and we ask for a hearing. We obviously oppose their position and submit that the Land Court settlement agreement is valid. If the town wants to get any of this prop-

regards to our position.” The agreement was approved on Jan. 25, 2021, by selectmen Brian Keyes and Louis Arcudi III; selectwoman Glenda Hazard was opposed.

The so-called “10 Taxpayer Lawsuit” alleges the Select

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# Select Board Accepts Donation for Fire and Police Departments

*Donor is Plaintiff Number 1 in a lawsuit against the town*

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Select Board has accepted two \$10,000 donations from a resident who is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the town.

The donor, Liz Reilly, is one of 10 plaintiffs who filed suit against Selectmen Brian Keyes and Louis Arcudi III (plus the Grafton & Upton Railroad Company, Jon Delli Priscoli, Michael Milanowski, and One Hundred Forty Realy Trust) for allegedly

not following guidelines set at an October 2020 Special Town Meeting to purchase 155 acres of land at or near 364 West Street. That suit is still making its way through Worcester Superior Court.

In a letter to the Selectperson Louis Arcudi III and Town Administrator Diana Schindler on April 6, Reilly enclosed a donation of \$10,000 for the Hopedale Fire Department and \$10,000 for the Hopedale Police Department. She also enclosed \$10,000 for the Hopedale Public Schools which the Select Board is not au-

thorized to accept.

The letter said the donation was for “the town’s legal fees associated with the citizen’s [sic] lawsuit and is being directed towards the three departments you identified in one of your meetings as being directly shorted by the costs associated with the suit.”

In a previous meeting, Chairman of the Select Board Brian Keyes had said the town had overspent its legal budget, in part due to defending itself in that lawsuit, that there could be shortfalls in other departments.

The board asked that the letter be reworded so there was no written stipulation on the money.

Schindler said she spoke with Reilly who “wasn’t interested in submitting a new letter but did once again reiterate that what she intended was to replace \$10,000 in operational expenses for the police and fire to offset any decrease to the budget due to the legal expenses from the lawsuit.”

Schindler said there would be no stipulations on the money which would be put in a gift account for future use.

At the board’s May 10 meeting, Keyes said he was hesitant to accept a donation from someone who is litigating against him directly, and he requested the matter be put on hold until after the

town election and the town has a full three-member board.

Keyes also consulted with town counsel and reported to the board, “It looks like we will not have any ethics violation in accepting it.”

Selectperson Glenda Hazard, who rejoined the board after the May election, said the board should not question the donor’s motivation and accept the gift to help the two town departments.

“I don’t think that we explore the motivation of people who donate, in general, and we certainly need the funds,” Hazard said.

Arcudi agreed, saying “It’s a sizeable donation [and] I don’t want to question the motivation. Thank you very much.”

# Multi-Tenant Building Proposed at 333 South Main Street

*Owner says building could have six tenants or one single tenant*

BY THERESA KNAPP

A multi-tenant building is proposed for 333 South Main Street, a 1.4-acre site on Route 140 between Tandem Way and Warfield Street, and across from Charlesgate Road.

As of press time, there is a house on the site that has been partially raised, some trees have been removed, and a barn remains on the property.

Amanda Cavaliere, with Guerriere and Halnon Engi-

neering and Land Surveying, explained the project at the June 9 Planning Board meeting.

The building would measure 75 feet by 150 feet and would have 33 parking spaces, town water, private sewer, light would be contained within the site, and the entrance and exit would be onto Route 140.

Preliminary plans call for six units to include 200 square feet of office space and the remainder of the unit would be storage

or warehousing space. Each unit would have a storefront entrance in the front, and an overhead door and pass door in the back.

Applicants Paul Moffi Sr. and Paul Moffi Jr. also said they would consider a single-tenant should one express interest.

Paul Moffi Jr. said his family lives across the street and he plans to build something “pleasing to the eye and professional looking” and said the ultimate goal is to build “something simi-



lar to businesses on Condon Way and Rosenfeld Way. That’s the tenant we’re reaching for.”

The hearing was continued to July 7 at 7 p.m.

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# Green River Cannabis Asks Select Board for Site Change

**Suggests Charlesview location next to Caroline's Cannabis**

By THERESA KNAPP

In June, Green River Cannabis Company, Inc. asked the Hopedale Select Board if the town would consider changing the site listed on its Host Community Agreement for its adult cannabis retail store proposed at 54 Mellen Street (Unit A) to 6 or 8 Charlesview Road.

The company filed a lawsuit against the town after the Zoning Board of Appeals denied its application for a Special Permit in December 2020.

"We would be willing to withdraw the case we have in Land

Court if we could transfer the agreement over to Charlesview," said applicant, company partner-owner, and Attleboro lawyer Constant Poholek, Jr.

There is a case management conference scheduled in the case for June 22.

Selectmen noted their board does not have the power to overturn the ZBA and encouraged Poholek to ask the ZBA for a public hearing, especially if he has new information or a revised business plan.

Regarding the Charlesview location, Select Board Chair Brian Keyes noted there is another pro-

posed retail cannabis store (Caroline's Cannabis) right next door at 4 Charlesview Road. "I have concerns of having two on a very short street...It looks like putting a McDonald's next to a McDonald's over there and I have some concerns about that."

### Background

In December, the Select Board granted a one-year extension of the current Host Community Agreement giving them additional time to either (1) make the business operational at the Mellon Street address or (2) have a different location approved by



the ZBA and amend the address in host community agreement.

After the ZBA denial in December, Poholek told Hopedale Town News he was "confused and surprised" by the ZBA decision. At the time, Poholek told selectmen the company was considering an appeal on the Mellen Street application while, at the same time, researching an alter-

nate site at 54 Hopedale Street, behind the Bancroft Memorial Library. Seeking an alternative site while proceeding with an appeal is not unusual since the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission requires a valid Host Community Agreement be in effect while an applicant seeks a license.

# Hopedale Extends Inter-Municipal Agreement for E-911 Coverage

**Agreement with Upton extended with no increase in costs**

By Theresa Knapp

The Town of Hopedale has again extended its inter-municipal agreement for regional dispatch services between the Towns of Hopedale and Upton for another three years at no additional cost.

Hopedale Fire Chief Mark Giovanella said this agreement

relates only to "ring down" E-911.

"Upton takes our 911 calls and does our emergency medical dispatching which allows us to be able to get the proper apparatus rolling at any time for any emergency call," Giovanella told the Select Board before they approved the amendment at their May 24, 2021, meeting.

"We have a great partnership with them...Because of the partnership with them, we received about a \$75,000 grant that we're going to be putting into the dispatch system for all new equipment."

Giovanella said Hopedale qualified for the grant because it has this inter-municipal agreement.

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# Bri Frongillo of Hopedale to participate in August Hoop Challenge

*A Shot for Life is a fundraiser for health and cancer research initiatives*

A Shot For Life is pleased to announce the roster of our ninth annual A Shot For Life Challenge in Massachusetts. The event is a hybrid of a highly competitive basketball shooting competition and a fundraiser. The winner of the A Shot For Life Challenge is officially named "The Best Shooter in Massachusetts". Thanks to their continued gen-

erosity, the ASFL Challenge will once again be held at the Starland Sportsplex in Hanover on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Funds raised by the A Shot For Life Challenge benefit the Dr. Curry Research Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Among the 16 girls and 17 boys participating is Bri Frongillo of Hopedale.

Our ASFL Challenge is

unique in that it involves the top talent in a given state. A Shot For Life ('ASFL') is a sports-based non-profit organization that funds health and cancer research initiatives. Through sports-based initiatives, community in-person events, and online activities, ASFL meaningfully engages and unites communities, inspires hope and teaches community leadership.

It is a very competitive process to be chosen as an A Shot For Life shooter. We select 16 players total from a pool of every player in the NEPSAC and the MIAA. The roster is a rollover roster similar to a high school team. There are a different number of available roster spots on an annual basis.

We not only scout all prospective shooters closely, but we also look for people of great character. We are extremely proud of the 2020 roster as we welcome many new players into the A Shot For Life Family. All of the participants involved in the A Shot For Life Challenge have committed to spend a significant amount of time and energy to raise money

Boys	Girls
Nate Amado (Whitman-Hanson)	Lauren Beach (Medway)
Aaron Cooley (Beaver Country Day)	Shay Bollin (Bridgewater-Raynham)
Alex Karaban (IMG Academy)	Avery Burns (Deerfield Academy)
Mike Loughnane (BC High)	Bri Frongillo (Hopedale)
James McGowan (Westwood)	Kayla Lezama (Noble & Greenough)
Trevor Mullin (St. Sebastian's)	Jen Martin (Bradford Christian Academy)
Marvin Musiime-Kamali (Cushing Academy)	Kenzie Matulonis (Bridgewater-Raynham)
Joe Nugent (Tabor Academy)	Avery O'Connor (Dedham)
Max Poulton (Rivers)	Blake O'Grady (Dexter Southfield)
TJ Power (Worcester Academy)	Megan Olbrys (Norwood)
Matt Price (Kimball Union)	Grace Oliver (Norwell)
George Smith (Brooks)	Maria Ollivierre (Beaver Country Day)
Kyle Squires (NMH)	Olivia Quinn (Franklin)
Robbie Stankard (Phillips Exeter)	Nariah Scott (Tabor Academy)
Sam Stevens (Williston Northampton)	Madison Shaker (Needham)
Keegan Sullivan (Scituate)	Tatum Shaw (Andover)
Gianni Thompson (Brimmer & May)	

for brain cancer research. Their excitement and willingness to do so speaks volumes about who they are as people off of the court. Many of our first time ASFL Challenge selections have shown great initiative in getting involved with our organization. We are proud



they are now forever a part of A Shot For Life.

To donate to the A Shot For Life Challenge please follow [this link](#).

"We're excited to welcome so many players back this summer. The ASFL Family program is a rollover roster similar to a high school team, but it only works if the players make it work. We can't say thank you enough to all of these athletes that selflessly use their talent to

better the lives of others through ASFL. We're also putting this logo on some new players that replaced our seniors, they are all extremely talented on the floor but more importantly we are confident that they are great people off of the floor. As much as ASFL has grown as an organization, it has also grown as a community and we are thrilled to grow that

community through the additions to the ASFL Family Program"



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**Congratulations to our June Winners who will each receive a \$100 gift card to the Muffin House:**

**William Scotland, Veronica Paulson, Jane Sivacek, Geri Sprague and Jon Link**

**Go to [hopedaletownnews.com](http://hopedaletownnews.com) and follow us on Facebook for new contest announcements!**

**[hopedaletownnews.com](http://hopedaletownnews.com)**

## Hopedale Alumni Association Essay Competition Winners

A Massachusetts law passed in 2018, and signed by Governor Baker, required new curriculum in the area of civics education. The law went into effect at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. With support, encouragement, and sponsorship of the Hopedale High School Alumni Association, along with inter-departmental collaboration between the History and English Departments, a Junior High civics curriculum was created and enhanced. For the third consecutive year, the Alumni Association recognized five eighth graders for their essays. This year's topic "What 'Does Good' Trouble Mean to You Today?" related directly to current events over the past year.

The following students were recognized with a certificate and Alumni association check for their original essays on the subject:

Honorable Mention Abby Savaria and Riley Mulligan (\$50).

3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner Ryan Dupuis (\$100).

2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner Charbel Jabara (\$200).

1<sup>st</sup> Place winner Leah Hodgdon, (\$300).

The Alumni Association congratulates these students and all who participated in this annual competition.

# Hopedale Girl Scouts honor volunteers and graduates at Bridging Ceremony

The rain held out long enough for the Historic Hopedale Girl Scouts to host their annual Bridging and End of Year event on the Hopedale Community House lawn on Sunday, May 16, 2021. Due to covid restrictions, the planning committee hosted the event outdoors with a limited guest list.

Master of ceremonies were members of Ambassador troop #30949 - Lilly Chan, Anna Dykhoff and Emily Hagan. Members of Brownie Troop #64904 presented the colors in the opening flag ceremony - Corinne Jackson, Avery Faron, Abby Rigdon, Sophia Zacchilli, Maddison Brown, Maddison Lombardi, Jocelyn Novelli, Jocelyn Morrisey, Olivia Peristere, Luci Parente, Grace Rojee, & Libby Sullivan.

Service Unit Manager Monica Phillips, thanked all the parent volunteer leaders for their hard work and dedication and being positive role models for their troops. "Even during the pandemic, the girls were able to meet with their troop virtually or in person outdoors and still manage to have fun. These girls are strong, resilient and they persevered."

She also thanked the Service Unit team for all their support- Katy Sanosi, Town Registrar and Suzan Ciaramicoli, town treasurer along with the Product Sale Managers, Jennifer Rigdon and Melissa Rogers- Obal. "Without amazing parent volunteers, Girl Scouts would not be possible in Hopedale."

Six troops bridged to the next level; Daisy Troops# 65096 & #64931, Brownie Troop# 64904, Junior Troop #64719, one member of multi level Troop #11640 and Ambassador Troop # 71010.

To remain involved in Girl Scouts throughout high school is a noteworthy accomplishment. The 4 Ambassadors from Troop #71010 who achieved this distinction juggled many activities including academics, sports, drama club, and part-time jobs. These girls should be recognized for their hard work and commitment to community service throughout their time in Girl Scouts.

This "final four" group, Kelsey Grillo, Edda Phillips, Viv-



ian Staheli all of Hopedale and Jaiden Miller of Upton, have been great mentors for younger troops. They hosted Thinking Day Events, Daisy Day workshops, Halloween Events and Etiquette tea parties. They have also achieved both the Bronze and Silver awards which involved teamwork, leadership skills, and many hours of community service. Had it not been for the COVID pandemic two of them would have gone on to achieve the final Gold award which is the highest available to them and is equivalent to the Boy's Eagle Scout award.

Historic Hopedale Service Unit awards a \$500 scholarship to a deserving graduating senior who has been committed to Girl Scouts for 13 years. This year's scholarship was awarded to Kelsey Grillo.

Girls can earn three awards in Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts in the junior level can earn the Bronze Award, a 20-hour group service project and at the cadette level, they can earn the Silver Award, a 50 hour sustainable, service project.

Fewer than 6% of Girl Scouts earn the prestigious Gold Award, an 80 hour "Take Action" service project working with an issue they're passionate about. that focuses on leadership, career exploration and challenges for personal growth. Girls also need to complete two journeys as a Senior and Ambassador or complete 1 journey after earning the Silver Award. Many amazing

projects have been completed by Girl Scouts and can be found online and at GSUSA.org. "Earning the Gold Award can open doors to scholarships, preferred admission tracks to college and amazing career opportunities."

Special volunteers, Suzan Ciaramicoli, Tara Corcoran, Jen-

nifer Rigdon and Monica Phillips were awarded Volunteer of Excellence awards for going above and beyond the expectations of their volunteer position. They were nominated and endorsed by their peers in the Service Unit and community, approved by a special board of directors, and

will be celebrated in a ceremony in June.

The following leaders retired this year: Kristen Grillo, 13 years as Girl Scout co-leader of Troop #71010,

Monica Phillips, 13 years as Girl Scout Leader of Troop #71010 and 8 years as the town's Service Unit Manager and Suzan Ciaramicoli who has been a Hopedale's Girl Scout Service Unit treasurer for 13 years and an adult volunteer with Girl Scouts for a total of 34 years.

The new Service Unit Team will be Katy Sanosi as Service Unit Manager, Kristi Brytowski as GS Town Treasurer and Christina Pedersen as the town registrar.

Hopedale Girl Scouts is still looking for 2 parent volunteers to lead the new kindergarten Daisy Troop this fall. Please contact our Service Unit Manager - Katy Sanosi at ksanosi@yahoo.com and like our Facebook Group -Historic Hopedale Girl Scouts.

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# 2021 Hopedale High School Alumni Scholarship Awards Presented

Continuing a tradition dating back to 1935, 23 Scholarships from the Hopedale High School Alumni Association totaling more than \$50,000, were awarded to the class of 2021; and 10 scholarships totaling \$30,000 were given to the 10 college-enrolled members from then class of 2020.

The Philip Roberts Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$400 to a student who has enhanced the school with their musical ability was presented to Joshua Furnia.

The Shogere Markarian Scholarship in the amount of \$600 to two students who have been a drive in band and chorus and who will attend a college of music or minor in music were presented to Kelsey Grillo and Edda Phillips.

The James S. Midgley and Elizabeth K. Midgely Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to a student who demonstrates leadership qualities, initiative and accomplishments in the arts and sciences was presented to Kayla O'Loughlin.

The Albert C. Sayles Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to a student with an interest in Mathematics and who shows leader-

ship on and off the athletic field was presented to Kyle Murray.

The Regina Stare Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to a student who plans to pursue a degree in education and is involved in community service and extracurricular activities related to helping others was presented to Katherine White.

The Henry L. Cyr Scholarship for Patriotism and Service to their school, community and to our nation in the amount of \$1000 was presented to Caleb Jackson.

The Alumni Association Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each for academic achievement, leadership and service were presented to the following six students:

- Adam Banayan
- Kyle Dupuis
- Kayla Lelio
- Tyler Small
- Caroline Smith
- Katherine White

The Alumni Association Scholarship in the amount of \$2000 for academics, character and service was presented to Angelina O'Connor.

The Alumni Associa-



Right, Caleb Jackson, winner of the The Henry L. Cyr Scholarship for Patriotism and Service to their school, community and to our nation. Photos, Hopedale High School Alumni Facebook page.



tion Lucy Day Scholarship in the amount of \$2000 for academics, leadership and service is presented to Maeve Griffin.

The Glendon and Dorothy Home Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 for academic excellence, leadership and service was presented to two students:

- Mykenzie Black
- Bianca Fitch

- Natalia Lee
- John McDonough
- Maggie Sacco
- Madison Sullivan

Congratulations to all those selected from the Hopedale High School Alumni Association.

Hopedale High School Alumni Association 2020 Scholarship Selections April 21, 2021 \$3000 Horne:

- Zoe Athansopoulos
- Alice Coulombe
- Kathryn Hockenbury
- Francis Hodges
- Samantha Katz

- Ryan Maloney
- Kiera Seaver
- Kaylee Soares
- Sarah Szemethy
- Alex Waswill

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Meet our Health Nurse Mary Watson. She can assist you with a variety of medical issues. Review medications, perform vital sign checks and much more! Private and Confidential.

## Hopedale Day in the Park

The 41st Annual Day in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18, from 10am to 4pm. (Rain date- Sunday)

Plans are being made by the Hopedale Cultural Council for a day of fun for everyone. Live music, a juried art show, children's activities and entertainment, crafters, and food vendors will fill the Town Park.

Crafters with original work, Hopedale nonprofit organizations, Hopedale residents who operate an independent business, or businesses in Hopedale are invited to participate.

Detailed information and applications for booths are available on the Hopedale Town website [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov) > Boards and Commissions> Cultural Council

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As always, find us online at [hopedaletownnews.com](http://hopedaletownnews.com)

# Living Healthy

## Glaucoma Treatment: DURYSTA

### Commonly Asked Questions

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

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. There are patients who have problems remembering to use the drops and sometimes the preservative in the drop cause irritation, redness and intolerance to the drops. In other instances, one can be traveling and forget to carry the eye drops during the trip. In those instances, a novel treatment using DURYSTA glaucoma implants can help manage the pressure while reducing or eliminating the need for drops.

#### What is Durysta?

Durysta is a breakthrough in the treatment of open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension with FDA approval. Durysta (made by Allergan) will be a game-changer for those patients who have difficulty taking daily medicated eye drops for glaucoma because it frees patients from having to apply drops altogether.

#### How does Durysta work?

Durysta is the first biodegradable sustained-release implant that continuously delivers Bimatoprost, a prostaglandin analog, within the eye that helps reduce and maintain healthy eye pressure levels. The preservative-free medication is housed within a tiny rod-shaped cartridge that is inserted in the eye's anterior

chamber by an ophthalmologist during a safe 5-minute office procedure.

The implant comes pre-loaded with 10 mcg of Bimatoprost in a single-use applicator that your ophthalmologist uses to inject the implant directly into the front side of your eye. This means that the drug delivery system is a one-time use sterile applicator used on you and you alone.

The bimatoprost implant is biodegradable and breaks down naturally over time, so you do not require another procedure to remove the delivery system. It simply dissolves and is eliminated by your body. In fact, most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels even after Durysta has broken down.

#### How long does Durysta last?

The great news for patients with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension is that the Durysta implant is designed to last up to 6 months. However, most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels after Durysta has broken down. This means you'll continue to benefit from Durysta for months and sometimes a year or 2 later. Meanwhile, you'll be free from having to deal with inserting eye drops and worrying about whether the correct amount of medication actually got into your eye.

#### Who is a candidate for Durysta?

Durysta is indicated for people diagnosed with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. That said, not everyone is an ideal candidate for Durysta and it is contraindicated under the following circumstances:

If you have an infection within or surrounding your eye

If you have undergone a corneal transplant

If you are diagnosed with corneal endothelial cell dystrophy

If your posterior lens capsule is ruptured or absent

If you are allergic to bimatoprost or to the components of the implant

#### What are the side effects of Durysta?

As with any medication, clinical trials have shown that some people can experience side effects from Durysta. However, the interesting thing about the Durysta trials was that patients who were randomized to receive Durysta actually experienced fewer side effects than the control group patients taking standard glaucoma eye drops.

It's highly unusual for a new medication to exhibit fewer side effects than the standard medicine it's being compared to, but that's exactly what happened with Durysta. The Durysta patients had fewer complaints and tolerated the medication better than the patients using traditional glaucoma eye drops. Fewer side

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effects and better eye pressure control make for a compelling argument to consider switching to Durysta.

Some adverse events for Durysta patients can include:

- Eye redness
- Eye irritation
- Eye pain
- A foreign body sensation within the eye
- Light sensitivity (photophobia)
- Blurred vision
- Headache
- Conjunctival hemorrhage
- Iritis
- Increased intraocular pressure

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Also, the safety of taking Durysta during pregnancy has not been studied.

#### Is Durysta for me?

If you have tried other treatments for glaucoma, including eye drops and they did not work, or if you've found eye drops are challenging or you can't use them as prescribed, contact us. Eye drops are not always the best option for every patient, and Durysta may be a better solution.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the area to offer Durysta. 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 far away to have eye surgery, we are available for a second opinion. We are proud to offer excellence in glaucoma management and surgery with world class outcomes and here is the great news: In Milford, and closer to home than ever before!

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# 2021 Pan-Mass Challenge

## Locals will cycle with the goal of raising \$52 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

On Aug. 7 and 8, more than 6,000 riders, including 14 participants from Ashland, 12 participants from Holliston and 43 participants from Natick will take part in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), a two-day 211-mile bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, with the goal of raising \$52 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber).

The PMC is the nation's single most successful athletic fundraiser, donating 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to Dana-Farber as its largest single contributor, accounting for 64 percent of its Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. For the first time since 2019, more than 6,000 riders from 47 states and 11 countries will once again hit the road together during the first weekend of August with the common goal of making an impact in the fight against cancer. In 2020, the PMC raised an impressive \$50 million through its summer-long Reimagined campaign, bringing its 41-year contribution to \$767 million.

"We couldn't be more excited to bring our passionate PMC riders, volunteers, donors and sponsors back together in person for PMC Ride Weekend this year," said Billy Starr, founder and executive director of the PMC. "With fully supported routes and Reimagined options, everyone can customize their PMC experience to join us in the fight against cancer. Cancer doesn't stop for anything, even a global pandemic, and funding for research, treatment and care is as critical as ever."

PMC 2021 will include 16 routes – from 25 to 211 miles – designed to cater to all levels of cycling and fundraising ability, including Reimagined options for those who prefer to complete their PMC ride on their own. Most participate in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer and more than 950 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. More than 150 Dana-Farber

employees are committed to the cause as riders and volunteers as well, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

Registration for PMC 2021 is open through June 30. Join in the fight against cancer by registering for one of the following featured routes still available:

25 & 50-Mile Routes (1-Day 25 or 50 Miles; Sunday, August 8):

Starting and finishing in either Wellesley or Foxboro, these Sunday routes are perfect single day options for those passionate about giving back.

Wellesley Century Ride (1-Day, 100 Miles; Sunday, August 8):

NEW this year, the Wellesley Century route is a popular option for riders looking to challenge their endurance in a single day format while making an impact in the fight against cancer.

Reimagined Ride (Rider's Choice Mileage/Timing):

PMC Reimagined riders can ride wherever and whenever they want – except for the PMC routes on PMC weekend. This option is intended to provide flexibility for those that want to contribute to the fight against cancer without specific time or mileage constraints.

The PMC is presented by the Red Sox Foundation®. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org), or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2021 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Thank you to the following participants.

**Ashland:**

- Kristin Brandt
- Sophie Brandt
- Mary Bruce
- Alan Cantor
- Nancy Cantor
- Joseph Connors
- David Fuller
- Neal Gerber
- Melissa Linehan
- Joel Loitherstein
- Steven Mitchell
- Bonnie Mitchell
- Julie Zaveloff
- Jeffrey Zaveloff

**Holliston (12):**

- Gail Abbey
- Darryl Abbey
- Matt Buckley
- Michael Cote
- Bud Dodge
- Paul Gillespie
- Bridgett Maillet
- Kevin O'Connell
- Joanne O'Connell
- Joey Pirelli
- Karl Schlotterbeck
- Stephanie Vail
- Natick (43):**
- Michael Bergin
- Eric Berman
- David Boyarsky
- Lisa Burns
- Molly Cashmore
- Steven Cashmore
- Patrick Cavanagh
- Steven Cohen
- Mike Cohn
- Matthew Cohn
- Carol Conway
- Linc Cornell
- Lois Cornell
- Doug Crossley
- Claire Eckelkamp
- Martha Fagan
- Billy Feinberg
- Kathleen Fitzgerald
- Glen Glater
- Martha Gold
- Emily Hawley
- Melissa Jacoby
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- Pamela Landis
- Jim Liebowitz
- Benjamin Loewenberg
- Brett Lousararian
- John Manning
- Jonathan Migdol
- Jeff Olsen
- Ellie Olsen
- Grafton Pease
- John Portnoy
- Michael Price
- Denise Rosenblum
- Virginia Seery
- Heidi Siegal Kogon
- Mark Smerdon
- John Smutko
- Karen Snyder
- Ken Vona
- Larry Ziegler

###

**About the Pan-Mass Challenge**

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the



world. The PMC was founded in 1980 by Billy Starr, who remains the organization's executive director, an annual cyclist and a fundraiser. The PMC has since raised \$767 million for adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. The event donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to the cause, generating 64 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue as Dana-Farber's single largest contributor. The PMC has successfully

melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors and individual contributors, all of which are essential to the PMC's goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift each year. The PMC's hope and aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber's doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information on the Pan-Mass Challenge, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org).

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# AAA: Massachusetts Gas Prices Remain the Same

Massachusetts's average gas price is the same as last week, averaging **\$2.95** per gallon. Today's price is 4 cents higher than a month ago (\$2.91), and 89 cents higher than June 21, 2020 (\$2.06). Massachusetts's average gas price is 12 cents lower than the national average.

"Despite the latest increase in demand, many motorists are not seeing significant pump price jumps due to increasing supply levels, which have significantly built over the last four weeks," said Mary Maguire, AAA Northeast Director of Public and Government Affairs. "During this same period, the national gas price average has only increased four cents."

AAA Northeast's June 21 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be 1 cent lower than last week (\$3.08), averaging **\$3.07** a gallon. Today's national average price is 3 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.04), and 95 cents higher than this day last year (\$2.12).

Region	Current Price*	One Week Ago	One Month Ago	One Year Ago
Massachusetts	\$2.95	\$2.95	\$2.91	\$2.06
Rhode Island	\$2.97	\$2.96	\$2.94	\$2.07
Connecticut	\$3.09	\$3.09	\$3.07	\$2.11

\*Prices as of June 21, 2021

The AAA Gas Prices website is your resource for up-to-date fuel price information. Search average gas prices by Regular, Plus, Premium and Diesel on National and State levels, as well as Metro areas.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 71 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related services.



## KAYAK EVENT ON HOPEDALE POND

**JULY 14 and JULY 28 2021 - 10:00 am - Meet at Bath House**

**The Hopedale Sr. Center will hold a Kayak paddle on Hopedale Pond pending final authorization from the Parks Dept. Participants must be at least age fifty-five (55). The Outfitter is Fin and Feather Sports of Upton, MA.**

**Cost is \$20.00 per person - 1.5 hour paddle**

**Sign-up is on a first come basis. All participants must be able to swim. Please register by calling the Hopedale Sr. Center at (508) 634-2208.**



# Sports

## Bianca Fitch; A Softball Player Now, But Playing Volleyball In College

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Like so many young girls growing up in Hopedale, Bianca Fitch was introduced to softball when she was in kindergarten.

Her mother signed her up to play softball and soccer at the young age to get her involved in sports to give her something to do. She took to softball and has been playing for the past 12 years.

Although softball is her favorite sport and one she has been playing for as long as she can remember, it will not be one that she will play in college. The Hopedale native was recruited by Stonehill College in Easton to play volleyball for the Skyhawks, a commitment she made two years ago, during her sophomore year in high school.

While Softball is dear to her hear she loves volleyball almost as much.

“I began playing volleyball in seventh grade and if you ask me which is my favorite sport, I’d say volleyball during the fall and winter seasons, but softball is my favorite during the spring and summer months,” Fitch said. “I may be playing volleyball for Stonehill, but I will try to join an intramural or club softball team as it is the sport that I have been playing forever and I just can’t give it up.”

It was around fourth or fifth grade when she decided to try pitching for the first time and since that time it has been her position.

“There were a couple of girls pitching and when they left, I was willing to try out the position. My dad and I watched a lot of softball on tv, and I thought that it was a pretty cool position,” she said. “Growing up a lot of girls try pitching but most of them gave up on it, but I found that it was one of my favorite things to do so I continued to pitch.”

As she entered the Hopedale Jr/Sr High School she began her softball career with the junior varsity squad and in eighth grade she was one of a few girls

who would play for both the JV and varsity teams throughout the season. As she entered her freshman campaign, she was named the varsity team’s starting pitcher.

“It was really crazy; my first varsity start was as a freshman. I was very nervous that day, but I knew that Hopedale had a good team, so I was excited to get out there and be a part of that winning culture,” Fitch said.

The year prior the Blue Raiders went 12-8 during the regular season and captured the Division 3 Central Championship before falling to Turner Falls 2-1 in the State Semi-Finals. During her first year as the Hopedale starter the team didn’t perform as well as they had the previous year finishing the regular season with a 10-9 record and barely getting into the tournament as the ninth seed.

“We didn’t have that great of a record my freshman year, but once we got into the tournament we just kept winning,” she recalled. “It was unbelievable to be part of that team until we had to face the number one team in Millbury. I didn’t know what to expect but we beat them 8-4 and went onto win our second straight Divisional Championship; it is one of my favorite memories over my softball career.”

With a full year under her belt in the pitching circle, Fitch and her teammates were more than confident the following year as they cruised to a 16-2 regular season record, earned the number one seed in the tournament, and went on to dispatch of their opponents by a 30-6 score to bring home their third straight championship.

After winning the Division 3 Central Title three years in a row the Blue Riders were poised to make it four straight before Covid hit the country and basically put the country in a lockdown. Fitch and her teammates were looking stronger than ever that season and were primed and ready for the season to get underway.

“We were defiantly ready to compete again, were had already

took part in a couple of captains practices when Covid happened – it was heartbreaking,” she said. “While we weren’t able to do anything we just kept hoping that it would end, and we’d get back onto the field sooner than later.”

Unfortunately, sports did not return and a few months later when Fitch was to begin her senior year in high school things were still up in the air. She wondered to herself if she’d ever get the chance to step back onto the softball field before she graduated.



“I was not sure what was going to happen this year, especially after the fall seasons all being moved around. We just kept our fingers crossed that by the time the softball season came around that we’d be able to play,” she said. “As a senior you don’t want to go out that way (having your final two seasons cancelled), but we were so lucky to eventually get the clearance to get back onto the field.”

Once they got onto the field Fitch, who knew the Hopedale team was very strong, was hoping to pitch the Blue Raiders once again to yet another District championship. When the season first got underway it was unclear if there would even be a post-season and if Hopedale would have the opportunity to win another Sectional Title. At



a lot of balls put into play. This year she has struck out 138 batters in only 11 games.”

Although her command of the plate has been amazing and batters are going down like flies, Fitch doesn’t understand while her strikeout numbers have increased so much this season.

“I’ve always had a decent number of strikeouts, but I really don’t know why or how they went up this year,” the senior said. “It’s one of those things that I talk to my father about and while we don’t know the reason it is thrilling to strike a batter out, especially so many.”

Fitch is hoping that she has the opportunity to see a lot more batters take the walk back to the dugout after she’s struck them out as Hopedale looks to defend its Sectional Title and make it four straight— and maybe even be able to get past Turner Falls, who has ended the Blue Raiders season for the past three years and capture a State Championship. Now that would be a fitting way to end her high school career with Hopedale.

“I’m hoping that we can win our fourth District Championship,” Fitch said. “That would be really cool, but whatever happens this last year of playing softball has been a great way to go out.”

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**SURVIVE to Thrive**

**Sibling Support Group**  
(For youth ages 11-14)

This is a 10-week program that begins **Thursday, September 9, 2021 (5:45-7:30pm)**

The Survive to Thrive Sibling Support Group is offered for youth who have siblings with mental health and behavioral health challenges living in the home. Ben Speaks' knows the wide-ranging impact that mental health issues can have on families, and looks to serve as a resource to youth that are impacted by the stigma, volatilities, and demands placed on families. Siblings of family members with mental health needs may experience challenges and disruptions in their own emotional growth and development. This group will provide these youth with a nurturing environment to share their unique experiences of having a sibling with mental health needs, engage in empowering and fun expressive activities, and develop their own skills and resources, so that they may thrive in face of the challenges that they and their families encounter.

**What is the Sibling Support Group?**

- Group is open to youth ages 11-14 years old, living in MetroWest Massachusetts, who have siblings that struggle with mental health and behavioral health issues living in the home.
- Group sessions will include opportunities for both open and themed discussions, expressive art activities, age appropriate learning about mental health challenges and their impacts on families, and empowerment skills to enhance emotion regulation and effective communication.
- Group sessions to be held at the Ben Speaks Resource Office, 360 Woodland Street - 2nd Floor, Holliston, MA 01746. Meetings will be held in person as we follow the CDC rules regarding COVID-19. Drop off 5:45pm, Pick up 7:30pm. Healthy meal provided. If need be, we will shift to ZOOM.
- 10 weeks - 1.5 hours each week (No group will be held September 16 due to Yom Kippur)
- Facilitated by Bretton Torkelson, Psy.D., Judy Giovangelo, Michael Giovangelo and Penny Young; Members of the Ben Speaks' Board of Directors.
- Cost: FREE

Visit [www.benspeaks.org](http://www.benspeaks.org) for more information & to sign up

**BEN SPEAKS**



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**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**The Hopedale Sr. Center Needs You!**

- Deliver meals to home-bound seniors
- Assist at Sr. Center Programs
- Help serve at Sr. Center meals
- Help collate our monthly newsletter

We welcome volunteers with as few as two hours each month. Come meet wonderful people and perform meaningful work that will be greatly appreciated!

Please call us at (508)634-2208.



**Hopedale Town News now has its own Facebook page!**

Like Hopedale Town News on Facebook to keep up to date with articles, events, giveaways and contest announcements for Hopedale!



**News from SHINE for July 2021**

(Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone)

**The Asset and Income for Veteran's Benefits (Chapter 115) have increased!**

**Great News!! The Asset Limits for Veterans Benefits in Massachusetts have increased significantly.** Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws entitles Massachusetts Veterans and their spouses to reimbursement of their medical expenses if they meet certain income and resources guidelines. If you are a veteran, widow or widower of a veteran with an income of \$2,147 or less and cash assets of less than **\$8,400**, or if you are a married veteran or married to a veteran, and your combined income is less than \$2,904 per month and combined cash assets are less than **\$16,600**, then you may be eligible for these benefits. This program is an entitlement in recognition of your service. You may be reimbursed for your Medicare Premium and all your other health insurance expenses. **If you meet these guidelines, contact your local city or town Veteran's Service Officer and tell them you would like to submit a Chapter 115 application for benefits. If you have any questions regarding these benefits call the Hopedale Sr. Center at (508)634-2208.**

Trained SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) volunteers can help you. They provide unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Call your local Senior Center and ask for a SHINE appointment. For more information visit our website: [www.shinema.org](http://www.shinema.org)

**Looking to advertise in Hopedale Town News?**

Contact Jeremy Wardwell today at 413-204-5296

or by email at [jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com](mailto:jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com)

**The Sr. Center is open!**

BINGO, Mah Jong, Bridge &

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session. Check-out our

popular exercise classes, Medita-

tion and Tai Chi. Try something different this summer. Also don't forget

about our delicious monthly meals at the Sr. Center. Refer to the

monthly Calendar in our Newsletter for dates and times of Sr. Center

programs. Our Newsletter is always available online on the town's

Website.

We are working to restore our full schedule by September 2021.

Have a program suggestion? Please call us at (508)634-2208.



**Real Estate Corner**

**Recent Home Sales**

Date	Hopedale	Amount
June 15	232 Mendon Street	\$339,900
June 11	12 Hope Street	\$337,000
June 7	1 Laurelwood Drive	\$430,000
June 7	50 Neck Hill Road	\$407,899
June 7	15 Overdale Parkway	\$352,000
June 4	28 Tammie Road	\$520,000
June 4	20 Moore Road	\$560,000
June 3	11 Bens Way	\$530,000
June 2	3 Cook Street	\$100,000
May 25	35 Mellen Street	\$400,000
May 18	174 Laurelwood Drive	\$350,000

Source: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) / Compiled by Local Town Pages



15 Overdale Parkway in Hopedale recently sold for \$352,000. Image credit: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)



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Realtor, ABR



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