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October 2021

The Voice of Your Community

Hopedale calls for Special Town Meeting on Oct. 16

Voters to allocate \$292,000 debt exclusion that passed in June

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Board of Selectmen has called for a Special Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m. to vote on the allocation of the \$292,556 debt exclusion that passed earlier this year.

In June, the funds were moved into the town's stabilization fund while awaiting disbursement.

The selectmen and the Finance Committee held a joint meeting on Sept. 13 to discuss a portion of those funds, approximately \$180,000,



DEBT EXCLUSION

continued on page 2

Court decision expected soon on citizen lawsuit

10 citizens filed suit against the town and Railroad for alleged mishandling of land purchase

BY THERESA KNAPP

As of press time, a court decision was expected any day on the "Ten Citizen Lawsuit" in which 10 Hopedale taxpayers filed suit against Selectmen Brian Keyes and Louis Arcudi III (plus the Grafton & Upton Railroad Company, Jon Delli Priscoli, Michael Milanoski, and One Hundred Forty Realty 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.

The suit has been making its way through Worcester Superior Court for several months and a hearing was held in early September before a new judge.

Chairman Keyes said "We met with the new judge on Thursday [Sept. 9] at 2 p.m. Earlier that morning, the lead plaintiff of the citizens' lawsuit, with a complement of the others of course, filed an emergency order injunction to stop the Railroad from clearing land that they're using to access the land that they actually own that's not part of the lawsuit."

Abutter Linda Sarkisian disagreed with Keyes' during public comment and said the Railroad "is



image: graftonuptonrr.com

clearing a lot of land...they've cleared quite a bit."

Keyes said the judge did grant a TRO [temporary restraining order] to have the Railroad stop cutting down trees "so that the judge could reflect and make a decision on the injunction itself."

Town Administrator Diana Schindler said the court took under advisement the arguments from both parties "and the judge was supposed to, by the end of the day (Sept. 9), review all of that [TRO] information and then provide an additional ruling by the end of day tomorrow (Sept. 14).

A final decision was not available at press time.

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DEBT EXCLUSION

continued from page 1

while the remaining balance is still being vetted. The warrant will close on Sept. 23.

The items recommended by the Finance Committee include (as of Sept. 13)

“The main goal of this list is to benefit as many people as possible through services or for the department’s use while also being good stewards of taxpayers’ money going into Special Town Meeting,” said Finance Committee Chairman Chris Hodgens whose committee has met with department heads to review their requests.

One of the goals of the Finance Committee is to create a long-term capital plan, not just apply a patch for the critical items, said Hodgens.

“We really want to build that out and create a process for planned obsolescence and replacement so it’s not a big surprise every couple of years when something breaks down.”

The Finance Committee is working on the funding mechanism for future years but notes that some debt will be rolling off the books, and also noted the town’s credit rating is being impacted [low] because it is not utilizing its borrowing capacity.

Selectwoman Glenda Hazard reminded residents that the list of requests, and the total dollar figure requested, were both much larger at the start of this process which has seen many iterations.

“So if there was something there that they were concerned about [and now it is not on the list], it’s not necessarily that it didn’t get funded but it may have gotten funded through another source,” she said.

Mike Reynolds is a member of the Park Committee and a member of the Ad Hoc Field Committee. He is concerned that one of the items that didn’t make the final list is necessary repairs to the tennis courts, etc.

“I would like to say there were [recommendations] on

there that we’ve ignored, that we as a community have ignored, through the years and they’re getting to the point where they are critical or they’re not going to be able to be used any more. That goes for the tennis courts at Town Park. That goes for the basketball court at Town Park. The longer we wait the more expensive those repairs become... We’re coming very close to not being able to use those facilities at all,” said Reynolds who described the town’s athletic field and facilities as “dilapidated.”

Board Chairman Brian Keyes referred to the items that made the list as “mission critical,” adding “I know that many things are on the secondary list or aren’t going to make the list at all this year and we apologize for that because we’re working feverishly to try to make changes so we don’t have to line-item things out.

Special town meeting rain date is Oct. 23.

Department	Item	Amount
Fire/EMS	SCBA respirators	\$18,300*
Highway	Leaf-Vac truck	\$35,245
Tree Warden	Tree preservation/storm damage protection	\$35,000
Town Administration	Computer Network Server	\$7,500
Fire/EMS	CCTV security system	\$5,000
Police	Patrol rifles (5)	\$7,200
Highway	Small dump truck with plow	\$15,000
Fire/EMS	Misc. Fire Dept. equipment	\$43,755
School	School van	\$12,500*
		Total
		\$179,500

* Expected to change
Source: <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/administrator-board-selectmen>

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Town working with Railroad on water cost-sharing agreement

Draft agreement available on selectmen’s website

By THERESA KNAPP

Earlier this year, the Land Court dismissed a lawsuit the Town of Hopedale had filed against the Grafton and Upton Railroad in Land Court related to a 155-acre parcel at 364 West Street.

Part of the January settlement agreement between the town and the Railroad was a possible water cost-sharing agreement whereby, if new water resources are explored, the Water & Sewer Commission would have the opportunity to split expenses with GURR if it so chooses.

If the town decides not to partner with the Railroad, the agreement says each party should be responsible for its own costs.

On Sept. 13, at a joint meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission and the Board of Selectmen, it was reported that, the previous week, Tim Watson from the W&S Commission, Town Administrator Diana Schindler, and Michael Milanoski of GURR met to discuss the water cost-sharing agreement.

“The Railroad does have this exploratory agreement with the town to assist and partner in looking and exploring for other water sources, we do intend to honor that agreement,” Mila-

noski said at the meeting. “We’re hoping that we’ll be able to start a preliminary review on that in the next few weeks, and when we do, again, we’ll be coordinating with Diana and Tim as necessary

while the Water Commission determines when they’ll take that issue up.”


“Everything went well,” said Water Commissioner Watson.

A copy of the draft agreement can be found at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/administrator-board-selectmen>.

JOIN OUR GRANDFRIENDS PROGRAM

Bright Beginnings Center is Partnering with the Council on Aging!

Beginning this fall, Bright Beginnings Center (BBC) will be partnering with the Council on Aging (COA) in an exciting new Grandfriends program! Seniors in Hopedale will join our pre-schoolers in the classroom on a regular basis. Seniors will read stories, play with the students, work with small groups to reinforce skills, share their own life stories or share snack or lunch with our students. We would love for our Grandfriends to be able to build relationships with the students that enrich the lives of all involved. If you are interested in volunteering for this program please speak with Carole Mullen at the Sr. Center. All volunteers will have to submit to a CORI check prior to volunteering in the classrooms. COVID-19 protocols will be practiced.



Your Money, Your Independence

Open Enrollment: Benefits to Opt-In for your HSA

For many, fall brings Open Enrollment to work benefits. The once-a-year opportunity to make changes without needing a life event.

Beyond insurance and retirement benefits, these elections help maximize your tax planning for 2022. Yet, people spend more time scrolling Instagram than reviewing offered electives.

What are HSAs?

Health Savings Accounts or HSAs are tax-exempt savings plans paired with a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) meeting certain criteria (i.e. \$2,800 family deductible).

HSA is not "Use It or Lose It" like FSA annual benefits and upon leaving a company or retirement, you maintain your HSA.

How do you participate?

Only during an Open Enrollment can you Opt-In to an

HSA by choosing a \$ amount to contribute. You can change \$ amount throughout the year, but not the ability to Opt-In.

Key HSA facts:

- In 2022, an individual can contribute \$3650 and a family up to \$7,300.
- If over 55, contribute an additional \$1,000.
- All contributions are tax-free - federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.
- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Thus, unlike any other tax-advantaged savings plan, HSA can offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

Free money. Really.

Shockingly, over 50% of eligible Americans decline to participate in an HSA. Unbelievable considering most employers put \$500-\$1,500 each year into an HSA. In theory, \$1 per pay period could return \$500-\$1500 per year from your employer - take it!

Furthermore, "health rewards" programs can earn deposits into HSA by doing preventative care activities. For example, seen \$400 deposited into an HSA when each spouse had an annual physical.

Get the tax savings.

Consider a family in 24% tax bracket averaging \$4,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses. HSA tax-free contributions would provide them tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). Earners in 32% bracket can max out 2022 contributions and gain tax savings of \$3,259.

Leverage tax-free growth for retirement.

Gaining momentum is a financial planning strategy of avoiding withdrawals from HSAs and pay medical expenses from free cash flow. The allows for investment (funds, ETFs, equities) of HSA contributions to grow tax-free for years before using in retirement for eligible expenses like Medicare premiums, vision, dental, hearing aids, nursing services, long-term care premiums, and medical expenses.

Alert for the Retire Early crowd, while HSAs cannot be used to pay private health insurance premiums, they can pay for health care coverage purchased through an employer-sponsored plan under COBRA, which may be a desired option leaving a company and maintaining until reaching Medicare eligibility.

Learn more by connecting with your benefits coordinator or Certified Financial Planner.



Glenn Brown

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

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

Selectmen honor Colonel Matthew G.M. Masnik

A citation award was read at this year's Day in the Park

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Board of Selectmen honored the memory of Colonel Matthew G.M. Masnik by reading a citation award at its Sept. 13 meeting.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Brian Keyes also read the citation at this year's Day in the Park celebration on Sept. 19.

"I thought it would be a

great idea with him passing this year and his love of this town, this community, all that he did -- as well as his attendance and interest in the Day in the Park that we would commemorate this year's Day in the Park event in his honor and in his name," said Keyes at the board meeting.

The citation reads:
"For outstanding service while

selflessly devoting immeasurable hours of volunteer service to the community, local community organizations and serving our Country. Colonel Masnik's devotion and dedication to the Town of Hopedale, the youth, his family, and his Country reflects great credit upon himself."

Masnik died on July 1. According to his obituary, "He was very active within his community and known as the 're-

cycling man' where he would recycle cans and bottles and donate his earnings back to local

charities such as the Boy Scouts and Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale."

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Overdale Parkway residents oppose final agreement with developers

Discussion of opposition letter at selectmen's meeting gets heated

By THERESA KNAPP

Thirty residents of the Overdale Parkway neighborhood have submitted a letter of opposition regarding the final agreement the Hopedale Board of Selectmen reached with landowners Ricardo Lima and Black Brook Realty Corp. The town agreed to accept the gift of the 703 feet of unpaved roadway which, in turn, paves the way for these developers to extend Overdale Parkway by 703 feet and build 10 new homes in that area.

In August, after a lengthy title search and multiple conversations with legal counsel, plus lengthy selectmen's meetings with public comment, the parties reached a final agreement.

"At the end of the day, this is an item that has been fully executed and, in the eyes of

the board, is done," said Board of Selectmen Chairman Brian Keyes. "I feel holistically comfortable with my position on the vote and where things went."

The 30 residents believe not all facts were considered, and they shared their concerns with the board at its Sept. 13 meeting.

"The opposition letter here is really to convey our position that the past precedent that's been set regarding the unpaved portion of Overdale Parkway -- so the portion that is considered the entrance to the Parklands at the end of Overdale Parkway -- the past precedent since 1916 has always been that that has been used as a park entrance, it has been maintained by the Parklands, and all of this has been set and was even validated in litigation in 2003 and upheld in appeal by Judge Kilborn who is the Chief



Justice of the Land Court," said Stephanie Thomas, an Overdale Parkway resident whose signature is first on the group's Sept. 6 letter. "None of this seemed to be taken into consideration for the vote that took place by the Select Board."

The hour-long conversation was heated at times with Chairman Keyes calling for decorum or he would remove people from the meeting. Issues of concern for residents included ownership of the unpaved portion of the road, questioning if that portion is an "official" entrance to the Parklands and do prescriptive rights apply, plus questions surrounding environmental impacts, the 1985 town meeting, and Kilborn's 2003 decision.

Regarding the 1985 vote, Town Counsel Katherine Klein of KP Law PC said, "My understanding is that there was a vote and there was a motion to

modify it." She also clarified that the unpaved portion is not under the control of the Parks Commission.

"At the end of the day, the most favorable way to look at this, whether you'll ever there or not is completely up to you, is the development will be a beautiful one, we'll have an extension of the opportunity for residents to use the Parklands, there will be parking spaces provided (which are not provided today) for folks to go up there and tour the 'jewel of Hopedale,'" said Keyes. "This has been title searched to its final extent. It has been reviewed by multiple attorneys and everyone has felt legally comfortable with the decision that was made."

Thomas asked for a formal response to the letter but it was unclear if selectmen planned to answer it.

The full letter is available at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/administrator-board-selectmen/events/92011>

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Auntie Dalie's Helps Carb Load Boston Marathoner



Michael Raciti is taking on quite a challenge: He's running the Boston marathon for the first time. Helping him along the way is none other than Hopedale's Auntie Dalie's Pasta.

Q: Is this your first marathon?

A: Yes! I played soccer and basketball through high school at Sacred Heart in Kingston, Mass. and baseball for a year in college, but I've never run more than a 5k. So running the Boston Marathon is probably my most aspirational athletic endeavor, considering I am much more accustomed to sprinting and throwing/kicking balls into nets.

Q: How did you get involved with the marathon?

A: Working as a Content Producer at Beth Israel Lahey Health, I have had a front seat

Q: How did you find the Hopedale business?

A: I first discovered Auntie Dalie's pasta at the Needham Farmer's Market. This summer, my close high school friend was telling me about a pasta he discovered that he thought I would like. As soon as he said that, I knew exactly what pasta he was talking about. We have both studied in Italy and have eaten plenty of pasta over there.



to watch our healthcare professionals do amazing things day in and day out. Being in the ED and ICU and other departments at BID Needham hospital throughout the pandemic, it was truly humbling to see these incredible and dedicated people perform under pressure at such a high level. I wanted to do something to thank them and to hopefully give back some of the energy and inspiration that they've given to me.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I recently moved to South Boston. I grew up in Western Mass then worked my way east to Plymouth.

Q: Why carb load?

A: Nutrition is an extremely important component to athletics of any kind. As a source of energy, carbs are actually more important than electrolytes, contrary to

popular belief. I have been eating a steady diet of carbs as well as protein and fiber, such as Goya beans and chicken throughout my training. Though keep in mind, I have been obsessed with pasta since birth so the marathon has provided me with plenty of justification for my high carb consumption. It's been very liberating in that way!

Q: What will you be eating from Auntie Dalie's?

A: It's too hard to choose. As a pasta connoisseur, I like all types of pastas depending on the sauce and on my mood! I not-so-secretly hope that one day a pasta will be named after me. That is on my bucket list. So hopefully one day I will be cooking and

eating "Mike Raciti" - that has a nice pasta-sounding ring to it if you ask me!

Q: What makes it so great?

A: Besides the aforementioned health benefits from the carbs while training, there is nothing like a good pasta. Sure, I love a good carbo load, but I also love a good pasta even when I have no intention of doing anything active whatsoever.

Q: Anything I didn't ask you that you would like to get in?

A: Here is the link to my page: <https://bit.ly/Marathon-Mike>



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Fire Department receives grant for airpacks

FEMA grant is worth over \$291,000

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Fire Department has received a grant in the amount of \$291,326.19 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to purchase safety equipment.

“This is the equipment that allows us to do our job,” Fire Chief Thomas Daige told the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on Sept. 13 as they accepted the award for the town. “It’s the air packs that we wear on our back to allow us to go into the hazardous environments that we deal with.”

Call Lieutenant Matthew Berger wrote the grant in March and it was awarded in August.

“We really were at the point where, if we didn’t have this grant, the town was going to have to do something because



the equipment was that old,” Berger said. “Over at the fire station we’re doing everything we can to just try to find another means to cover these capital improvement projects that just need to be done.”

Chief Daige said the equipment should arrive about six weeks after it is ordered.

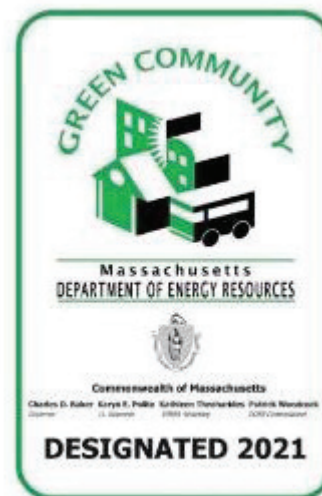
Hopedale receives first “Green Communities” grant

\$137,759 will fund LED lighting projects in town buildings

By THERESA KNAPP

The Town of Hopedale has received its initial grant under the Green Communities Designation Grant Program in the amount of \$137,759 which includes a base grant of \$125,000, plus an amount adjusted for population and income.

“This is our first allotment that comes with that designation and we’re planning to do the LED lighting project at Memorial and the Junior/Senior High School as well as the police station and the library,” Town Administrator Diana Schindler told the Board of Selectmen as they



Source: www.mass.gov

accepted the grant at its Sept. 13 meeting.

In April, Hopedale was officially designated a “Green Community” by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

“Once we spend this money, then we can apply for the competitive grants so we can do other types of projects that are on our [energy reduction] plan,” said Schindler.

For more information on the program, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/being-a-green-community

Selectmen appointments, resignations, and acknowledgments

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on September 13, the Hopedale Board of Selectmen took the following actions:

- Appointed of Michael Colaianni to Hopedale Housing Authority as a tenant board member, effective Sept. 13, 2021 (5 year term)
- Appointed of Charles Duczakowski to Hopedale Council on Aging, effective Sept. 13, 2021



- Accepted the resignation of Call Firefighter Candidate Alex Carchio from Hopedale

Fire Department, effective Sept. 13, 2021

- Accepted the resignation of Call Firefighter Candidate Robert Hansen from Hopedale Fire Department, effective Sept. 13, 2021
- Acknowledged a moving and impactful 9/11 celebration
- Acknowledged sponsors of Day in the Park [that was held on Sept. 19]

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Hopedale residents to participate in Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

Melissa Butler, Ashley Clinton, and Julia Manning will “Walk Your Way” for the iconic fundraising walk for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support all forms of cancer

Four residents from Hopedale will choose their own route on Oct. 3 for the Boston Marathon@Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way presented by Hyundai. Participants are encouraged to “Walk Your Way” from wherever they are most comfortable—whether that be from their neighborhood, favorite trail, or from a treadmill in their own home.

Melissa Butler, Ashley Clinton, Julia Manning, and Donna Marchionni, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in virtual programming during the Walk that aims to recreate the most inspiring elements of Walk day. While the event will not physically bring walkers together along the famed Boston Marathon@course, it will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event has raised more than \$150 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in its 30+ year history.

“While we can’t see everyone in person this year, we are excited for the virtual programming which

will give participants the opportunity to support breakthroughs in cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,” said Zack Blackburn, Director of the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. “Together, from a safe distance, we will take critical strides in the journey to defy cancer.”

This year’s event will have a lower fundraising requirement, \$100 for adults and \$25 for those under 18, with a \$5 registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib and medal and the first 5,000 to register will receive a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Anyone interested in additional information can reference the Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way frequently asked questions or can send an email to JimmyFundWalk@DFCI.harvard.edu. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor since 2002.

To register to walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. All Jimmy Fund Walk participants are encouraged to utilize the Charity Miles App to help with training and fundraising, engage with Dana-Farber patient stories and podcasts, and much more!

About the Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official char-

ity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children’s Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

We provide the latest treatments in cancer for adults



through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 10 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care.

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Nursing Home Negligence or a Vibrant Life Plan Community?

BY HEATHER J. CULKEEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PROJECT PERSEVERANCE

Doctors, nurses, patients, and their family members have all types of unpleasant conversations, according to Amy Sarah Marshall of the University of Virginia Medical Center magazine, *Healthy Balance*. For example: How to prepare for aging and caring for an aging partner or parent is one of those. For Lee Willis and her husband Hal, the conversation started this way: their beloved doctor of 15 years asked Lee, point-blank: "Are you prepared for the possibility that Hal may outlive you?"

At 94, Hal is ten years older than Lee. A plane accident broke multiple bones in his legs, and arthritis had settled in. Walking is hard for him. He does his own laundry and washes the dishes, but he doesn't drive and often uses a wheelchair.

Lee, on the other hand, just bought herself a new kayak. A nine-year cancer survivor, she relieves pain with exercise, not

medicine. She swims three times a week. When not caring for Hal, she's active, traveling, and socializing.

Still, the doctor had a point: Be prepared.

FACING THE FACTS OF AGING

Most people avoid the subject of getting old. Death is as natural as birth, but too many people simply don't want to think about it until they are too ill to participate in decision making, leaving family members and their physicians to make decisions that may or may not be what they would have wanted at the end of life. We need to prepare better.

FINDING A PLACE TO AGE

Lee's major purpose in preparing for Hal's aging and her own was to find a location where this could happen. Lee didn't simply conduct a Google search. She went to a lot of nursing homes. She compiled a list of in-home care services and went to each one.

But Lee wasn't satisfied, mainly because of shifting staff. "You can never guarantee the same people. The bottom-line dictates staffing. This turnover and the resulting lack in continuity of care, is a problem."

So, she looked at the option of aging in place. She volunteered at programs of all-inclusive care for the Elderly, which offers 24/7 coverage for anyone qualified for a nursing home. It seemed like "this would probably be what we choose to do," she said.

But then Lee discovered The Green House Project, a new model for long-term care for elders. In 2001, a doctor named Bill Thomas was appalled at the state of elder care. He saw it was a hospital, not a home with people just sitting in wheelchairs. So, he introduced a lot of changes, bringing in birds, dogs, cats, and plants. But it still wasn't enough. So, he "super-trained" staff to behave like family members, not healthcare providers. He built a new structure, with one central room, the residents living in rooms off in spokes. It became a

communal place, with a common kitchen where people cook family recipes and behave like relatives.

Lee found one in her state. "If we both have to go somewhere, this will be it!"

AGING GRACEFULLY: HOW TO GET STARTED NOW

The best advice Lee's received from her doctor: Exercise. He told her that the biggest factor that differentiates healthy from unhealthy aging is exercise—folks who remain sedentary clearly become frailer more rapidly than those who either remain or become active in their later years. Exercising on a regular basis makes a huge difference in how one ages.

Lee's primary lessons for younger people: Be proactive. "It's really hard when you're 50 to think about being 80, but you should." She advises younger people to:

- Take your health seriously—eat well and exercise.
- Prepare with a reputable Estate Planning Attorney who

cares about your health as well as your assets.

- Be an advocate for yourself.
- Get political and advocate for end-of-life care.

Heather J. Culkeen is Executive Director of Project Perseverance. The public charity is dedicated to supporting rescue efforts, as well as assisting local, early-stage nonprofit organizations. We focus on protecting Families for Generations. We have protected families, children, boomers, seniors, and the elderly for generations. We welcome opportunities for growth and development.

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Wednesdays 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
\$5.00 / class
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Instructor - Christine Bositis

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****See our full listing of programs on-line, Town of Hopedale Website
Council on Aging Page under Newsletter.

Bancroft Memorial Library - October 2021 Update



50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747

Contact: Elaine Kraimer, Acting Library Director/Children's Librarian, 508-634-2209

Columbus Day

The Bancroft Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, October 11 in observance of Columbus Day.

Tiny Halloween Bird Houses

Get ready for Halloween by creating a spooky scene with Mary Alice Gruppi on Monday, October 4 at 6:30pm. This program is for ages 16 to adult. Please call the Library at (508)634-2209 to register.

National Friends of Libraries Week

National Friends of Libraries Week is October 17-23. Help us thank The Friends on Monday, October 18 from 1-5pm. The Friends of the Hopedale Library provides funds for equipment, materials, and programming not provided in the regular operating budget. Stop by and express your thanks on a sticky note and have a celebratory treat! Interested in joining the group? Membership forms will be available.

National Cookie Month

October is National Cookie Month. Stop by every Saturday in October and pick up a new recipe to try out with your family! Some ingredients will be provided each week.

Ongoing Monthly Library Events

Helen Symonds Book Group
The Hopedale Book Discussion Group meets monthly on

the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Bancroft Memorial Library meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join the group. If interested in joining the group, please leave your contact information at the Circulation Desk.

The group will meet on Wednesday, October 6 at 1pm to discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. "Explore the secretive world of Bletchley Park in this immersive saga. Debutant Osla Kendall meets fellow Bletchley Park recruit Mab Churt on the train in 1940. While working at Bletchley, they share a room at the home of Beth Finch. After discovering Beth's talent for solving crosswords, Osla helps Beth get a job interview at Bletchley Park. Beth shines in her work on breaking codes, but when she discovers someone at Bletchley is likely a traitor, no one believes her. Soon, she winds up the suspected traitor and is committed at Clockwell Sanitarium after having a mental breakdown. In 1947, almost four years later, Beth contacts Osla and Mab, who help Beth escape from Clockwell. Together, the women work to crack a code that will help them find the traitor. Quinn's page-turning narrative is enhanced by her richly drawn characters, who unite under the common purpose of Britain's war effort, and by the fascinating

code-breaking techniques, which come alive via Quinn's extensive historical detail." --Adapted from PW Reviews

The book for discussion in November will be *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Napolitano builds a gentle but persistent tension as she navigates the mind of passengers on a plane that is about to crash, and the thoughts of the boy who is the only survivor. Twelve-year-old Eddie Adler is flying with his family from New York City to Los Angeles, a temporary relocation for his mother's television writing job. When the plane crashes in Colorado, Eddie is the sole survivor. Follow Eddie in his struggle to build a new life living with his aunt and uncle. Napolitano's depiction of the nuances of post-trauma experiences is fearless, compassionate, and insightful.

Wednesday Knitting & Crocheting Group

Join Knovel Knitters for an evening of knitting and crocheting every Wednesday night from 6:00pm until 7:45pm.

Friends of the Hopedale Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to present *Ghosts & Legends* with Bellingham native Jeff Belanger Wednesday, October 20th at 6:30 pm in the downstairs program room. Registration is required. To sign up please call 508-634-2209 or stop in to register. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hopedale Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Drawing from dozens of stories, *Ghost & Legends* changes every time it's given. For over 20 years, Jeff Belanger has been exploring the unexplained. He seeks out history, folklore, ghosts,

monsters, and legends worldwide and in your backyard. His talk presents highlights from his own adventures, a look at the investigation process, and compelling audio and visual paranormal evidence. Not just focused on ghost stories, Belanger's presentation will delve into the reasons behind the legends. Drawing from a huge library of locations, this program is different every single time it's presented.

Bellingham resident Jeff Belanger knows all about things that go bump in the night. He is the author of a dozen books on the paranormal (published in six languages), including the best sellers *The World's Most Haunted Places*, *Our Haunted Lives*, *Who's Haunting the White House* (for children), and *Picture Yourself Legend Tripping*. He's the founder of

Ghostvillage.com, the Web's most popular paranormal destination according to Google.com, and a noted speaker and media personality. He's also the host of the Cable/Web talk show *30 Odd Minutes*, which is available in over 3 million homes in the United States. Mr. Belanger has written for newspapers like *The Boston Globe* and is the series writer and researcher for *Ghost Adventures* on the Travel Channel. He's been a guest on more than 200 radio and television programs including *The History Channel*, *The Travel Channel*, *PBS*, *NECN*, *Living TV* (UK), *The Maury Show*, *The CBS News Early Show*, *FOX*, *NBC*, *ABC*, and *CBS* affiliates, *National Public Radio*,

LIBRARY

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Living Healthy

World-Class Eyecare and Cataract Surgery Closer to Home

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

Cataract surgery is by far the most common surgery performed in the United States. With advanced technology and if you choose an experienced and highly skilled surgeon, modern cataract surgery should be a rather quick outpatient and a minimal risk procedure. If you are considering cataract surgery, your expectations should not only be to improve your vision, reduce glare at night, see more vivid colors and improve your day to day activities, but you should also be given an opportunity to reduce your dependence on glasses or contacts and in many cases eliminate this need. Your expectations should also be to have your surgery by a world-class surgeon close to where you live and not be told to travel hours for testing

and surgery. Many choices exist on where to have the surgery and by whom. Here are the specific questions to ask when it's time to have the surgery:

1. Why are you referring me to this surgeon? Your optometrist may ask you to travel miles and hours away from home to have your surgery with a particular surgeon of their choice. When you have experienced surgeons within minutes from where you live and when those top-notch ethical surgeons with excellent nationwide reputation will perform your surgery in a state-of-the-art surgery center closer to home. Ask your provider why they want you to travel hours and miles away. Unfortunately, if you dig enough, you will find the only reason for this

remote referral is financial and business-related interest your provider has with the far-away surgeon. Beware referral bias. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed in a state-of-the-art facility in Milford. Very close to home. Your interest comes first.

2. What is my cost? Did you know that when your optometrist refers you to a surgeon who will perform your surgery at a hospital your insurance deductible and co-insurance will be higher at a hospital? If this is happening to you, we are available for a second opinion! All our surgeries are performed at an ambulatory surgery center in Milford with potential cost savings to you.



3. What type of anesthesia am I going to get? With modern cataract surgery, most surgeries should be completed under topical anesthesia. This means that the surgery eye becomes numb with drops. No need for injections or shots around or behind your eye. No shots will reduce the risk of bleeding and serious complications from the shots. Ask about the techniques of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to see. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical simple anesthesia.

4. What are the risks? One of the most dreaded risks of cataract surgery is accidental damage to the posterior capsule, which is the back wall of the bag holding your lens. Ask about the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.

5. What is the rate of infections in your center? Another potentially devastating risk of cataract surgery is an infection inside the eye called "endophthalmitis". Ask the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.

6. What type of technology is available at your surgery facility? Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only few

centers offering laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want to reduce dependence on glasses and treat low grades of astigmatism at the same time as your cataract surgery. Our center was among the first in the State and New England to offer this technology. Did you know that many hospitals and other centers do not offer laser bladeless cataract surgery? We do!

7. What type of implant am I going to get? Different lens implants can be used during cataract surgery with different materials, quality and ability to reduce your need for glasses. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon choice of implants. Our center was the first in the greater Boston area to offer the new diffractive and extended-focus implants. With those implants you can see clearly at distance, close and intermediate like your phone and computer screen without the need for glasses.

8. Will my need to wear glasses be reduced? Cataract surgery is a wonderful opportunity to limit or eliminate your need for glasses. As the surgeon removes the cataract, there is an opportunity to replace the cloudy lens with a special high-tech implant able to achieve this goal. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve those goals. Our center has many happy and glasses free patients.

9. Will I have stitches? It is ideal to eliminate the need for stitches such as the surgery is a no-stitch surgery. Placing a stitch can be complicated by stitch induced astigmatism, a foreign body sensation and a broken and irritating stitch. Ask your referring provider if



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



John F. Hatch, M.D.



Kameran A. Lashkari, M.D.



Shazia S. Ahmed, M.D.



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EYE

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his/her surgeon of choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.

10. What will be my vision on day 1 after the surgery? One of the measurements defining quality of outcomes after cataract surgery is the quality of vision on day 1 after the surgery. Surgeons should strive to make the vision correct to as close to best as possible on day 1. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve this outcome. Our center has many patients with happy 20/20 vision on day 1 after cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massa-

chusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the Pan-Optix and Vivity lens implants. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses only, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. No more need to travel hours for your cataract surgery! We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches. Brand new gorgeous office in Franklin and a second location in Milford. 7 providers with your interest in mind offering the best cost-efficient surgical care in an ambulatory surgery center closer to home.

For more details, see our ad on page 10.

LIBRARY

continued from page 9

The BBC, Australian Radio Network, and Coast to Coast AM.

The Friends of the Hopedale Library helps to support the Library by providing funds for equipment, materials and programs not covered by the regular operating budget. They offer adult events September- June and pay for the children's summer reading and other programs. More information can be found at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library/pages/friends-library>.

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

October Story Hours with Mrs. Kraimer

Story hours continue into the month of October!

Book Fun, for children ages 4+, will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 3:45 pm (October 5, 12, 19 and 26). This program will feature stories and crafts.

Tell Me A Story, for children ages 2-4, will be held on Thurs-

day mornings from 11:00 to 11:45 am (October 7, 14, 21 and 28). This program will feature music, fingerplays, and puppets.

Registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register.

Movie Matinees

Join us for some out-of-this-world movies this October! Space is limited and registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to save you a seat!

Mars Needs Moms on October 13 at 3:30pm (Ages 6+)

Aliens in the Attic on October 20 at 3:30pm (Ages 7+)

Pumpkin Days!

Enjoy an assortment of Halloween crafts, a story, and a little pre-Halloween treat with Mrs. Kraimer on October 18 at 6:30pm. Wear a costume and your face mask, of course! This program is for ages 6 to 9. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register. Wrapped refreshment donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Halloween Fun with Kathy Earabino

Join Kathy Earabino for some Halloween fun with music and refreshments on October 27 at 6pm. Make sure to wear your costume and face mask! This program is for ages 2.5 to 5. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register. Wrapped refreshment donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Tween/Teen Take and Make Craft – Mandala CD Suncatcher

Need a break from your studies? Try a mandala CD suncatcher take and make craft kit. All you need are permanent markers. Kits can be picked up on Wednesday, October 6!

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

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Business Owner Overcomes Double Whammy of Pandemic and Cancer to Re-Open

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to find a person or a business who has not been affected by the Covid pandemic. But for Ashland small business owner Don Gordon, life got particularly challenging when he was diagnosed with cancer—just

as businesses were opening again. Thanks to successful cancer treatments, Gordon has been able to re-open the shop on a part-time basis starting this past summer.

Q: Tell me a little bit about yourself



A: We've been here since 1989, my wife Janet and me. We have about five shows a year with the Framingham Artists Guild, the Franklin Artists Association Thursday. We have a holiday show and a few in between Intermezzo shows. We've been doing a lot of custom framing. We have a gift shop with Boyds Bears and limited editions and prints. And we kind of just cater to the neighborhood artists and the local guilds.

Q: When did things get off track for you and your store?

A: When COVID-19, it shut

us down for six months, which was kind of a devastating time for everybody. And then when we opened up, I think in September of 2020, when things eased up, unfortunately at the end of March 2021, I was diagnosed with cancer. Leukemia.

I was rushed to the hospital and of course, the gallery was closed because I'm the one that does all the work. My wife has a regular job. And you know, I returned to the gallery when I got out of the treatment and everything was in remission. I didn't want to close the gallery because I love doing what I'm doing and I love working with the people and

seeing final products, you know, all framed. It's what I want to do. So I came back on a part-time basis, the middle of June.

I'm only here 9 to noon Monday through Friday because I still don't want to stress myself out.

Q: Has business recovered? Are your customers returning?

A: We're hearing from a lot of my customers who have seen the flags out front and stopped in to wish me well—to find out what happened. Our customer base is

REOPENING
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Sports

Future looks bright for Hopedale Golf

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

In the past Hopedale Golf Coach Jim McCallum has had a dozen athletes come out for the team, but this fall things are different as the Blue Raiders have

ward the younger golfers that the Coach is looking for from his senior captain.

“Right now, it’s still early in the season and I am trying to grasp and figure out the lineup,” McCallum said. “Joel shoots a solid game and is in the low

his game. He definitely has the mindset to be a good golfer.”

Despite his young age, Haynes has been working with his father who has been teaching him the finer points of the game and provided he doesn’t decide to change schools in the future,

and put up some low numbers. Two years prior the Blue Raiders were hovering around the .500 mark in terms of their record, McCallum is looking to improve the team’s overall performance.

“Playing in the Dual Valley Conference is tough as there are

team a 12-game schedule.

“We have a couple of matches hanging in the balance, hoping that the high schools can courses they play on can juggle their schedules,” McCallum said. “We know our league very well since it’s so small, so we know the



had an influx of players looking to make the cut. With Covid putting a stop or making adjustments to high school sports over the last year, it’s a possibility that kids are looking to get involved in some sort of athletics. McCallum is not sure why, but is excited to see the increase in golfers this year.

“Last year we only got to play 6-8 matches with no post-season. This year we had good news with 16 athletes coming out for the team, it was the largest group I’ve had in 10 years,” the Hopedale Coach said. “It was surprising to me, I’m not exactly sure why; is it kids looking to try the sport for the first time or kids who have dabbled in other sports looking to try something different? I’m not sure, but it will allow the chance of interest in the sport and spreading.”

The Blue Raiders only senior and team captain Joel Bernardes will most likely see action in the fourth spot for Hopedale on the course, but it is his guidance to-

ward the younger golfers that the Coach is looking for from his senior captain. “Right now, it’s still early in the season and I am trying to grasp and figure out the lineup,” McCallum said. “Joel shoots a solid game and is in the low

40s and although he is currently slated to play in the fourth slot, I’m looking for him to provide leadership on the course. He is like a second coach and does the things that I cannot do since I am not at the high school.”

Currently and although it is subject to change at any time throughout the season, sophomore Lucas Levasseur will be the Hopedale’s number one golfer. According to the Coach, Levasseur has worked really hard this summer on this swing; he’s hitting the ball longer and straighter. He has an all-around game and is shooting in the high to low 30s.

Right on the heels on Levasseur is newcomer Colin Haynes. The seventh grader also is shooting in the mid to high 30s. “Having a seventh grader on the team is very rare. Sure, I’ve had some seventh graders over the years, but it is not all that frequent,” the Coach said. “Colin has been a pleasant surprise; he has a really good swing and is fundamentally strong in

McCallum will have him on the Blue Raiders squad for six years as he grows and improves his game.

In front of the captain in the third spot will be junior Jake Frohn, a three-year golfer for the Blue Raiders who possesses an all-around good game and will be shooting in the low 40s.

Sophomores Cameron Kiviehan, new to the team, and Carter Lachiatto, a low to mid 40s shooter, currently have secured the fifth and sixth spots on the team. At this time McCallum is still undecided on alternates.

Junior Jacob Smith, playing in his first season, has looked impressive in practice shooting a best of 44 and has the inside track. Hopedale also has a bunch of golfers who have shot in the low 50s but again McCallum is taking the wait and see approach to see how things play out over the next few matches.

As Covid made a mess of last year’s season and how things played out Hopedale is looking to get back on the golf courses

only four teams (Sutton, Douglas Nipmuc and Hopedale),” he said. “This year is definitely the strongest team that I’ve had in some years, at least on paper we’re a very solid team. After watching these kids in practice and our first few matches, I am very optimistic.”

Having only three other teams in the league while playing a home and an away contest give the Blue Raiders at least 6 matches. The Coach is hoping that Stephanie Ridolfi, the school’s Athletic Director, is able to secure another 6 non-league schools to play against giving the

competition, but the non-league games are a different story as we don’t know what we are going up against.”

Looking to his rather young team McCallum had figured that Levasseur was going to be a talented golfer and he hasn’t disappointed, while Haynes was an unknown and thus has been a nice surprise. If the remainder of the team starts to fall in place who knows what type of season the Blue Raiders can have. Coach McCallum is hoping that his squad can record a regular season with wins north of the .500 mark.

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SALMON at Medway Hosts Grand Opening Gala

On September 14, SALMON Health and Retirement's new Medway community opened its doors for their Grand Opening Gala. Masked attendees were ushered in through the front doors, warmly greeted by the sparkling chrome lettering: Whitney Place and The Willows at Medway, and chilled champagne. While some guests enjoyed the company of the entire SALMON family in the Bistro adjacent to the lobby, many attendees chose to embark on group scavenger hunts, with prizes in every corner of this brand-new campus, including



Many members of the Salmon family joined in the celebration.

candy in the game room, baskets of cookies in the Great Room, mini hand lotion samples at the campus Spa, Life Saver candies decorating the pool area, oranges in the gym, and baskets of SALMON visors in backyard.

A catered party on the fourth floor highlighted the culinary offerings of the new community, with a raw bar, a cheese and antipasto station, a dessert table, chef station, and cocktail bar featuring SALMON's signature cocktail, as well as the company of the location's new Medway Residents.

After Executive Director Andy Freilich, and Matt and An-



State Reps. Brian Murray and Jeffrey Roy issue Andrew Salmon a proclamation welcoming SALMON at Medway to the community.



SALMON at Medway's first resident, Dottie, center, is flanked by Andrew and Matt Salmon and their parents, Danny and Dottie Salmon, as she cuts the ribbon on the new cutting-edge residence in Medway.



SALMON at Medway's new team!

drew Salmon took turns welcoming the celebrants and thanking everyone who made such a grand opening possible, from the construction crews who built the campus, to the catering staff, to second-generation founders also present at the event, Danny and Dottie Salmon, State Representatives Brian Murray (D-Milford) and Jeffrey Roy (D-Medway) of-



OCTOBER 2021 - HOPEDALE SR. CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
9:00 am Pick-up Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:00 am Walk a Mile Challenge 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	9:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
11		13	14	15
CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:30 am Grab & Go Meal 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:00 am Walk a Mile Challenge 10:00 am No Watercolor Class - NOTE 1:00 pm Tai Chi	9:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 10:00 am Conversations
18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am Pick-up Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:00 am Walk a Mile Challenge 10:00 am Knitters' Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	9:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am Pick-up Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:00 am Walk a Mile Challenge 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi 1:00 pm COA Board Meeting	9:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 10:15 am Halloween Boo Brunch at the Sr. Center

ferred a proclamation from the state, noting that The Willows and Whitney Place at Medway will now be bringing more jobs, more opportunities, and a fantastic resource for the senior community to the Medway area.

It was then that the first SALMON at Medway Resident, Dottie, cut the ceremonial ribbon held up by Danny and Dottie Salmon to mark the exciting new chapter.

About SALMON Health and Retirement SALMON Health and Retirement is a trusted leader in the operation of senior living communities. Founded as a skilled nursing center in 1952 by Dan and Helen Salmon, today, the third generation of the Salmon family runs the region's only complete care continuum—from active living to hospice care, and everything in between. To learn more, please visit www.SalmonHealth.com. SALMON at Medway is the organization's newest community, offering active independent living, assisted living, and memory care. For more information, please visit www.MedwaySeniorLiving.com.

REOPENING

continued from page 12

great. We've had generations of people use our services. I've had customers come in when they're pregnant and now they're pregnant with their own kids, so they continue to return to me.

Q: How do people in the area know your business so well?

A: We cater to local original artists from the local MetroWest area and have some great artists and we exhibit their work. We love it.

We've had very good open houses. Of course, we haven't had an open house with COVID-19, and then we haven't had an open house in 2021 because of me being sick. We were closed from the 24th of March through June.

Q: What's going on at the shop currently?

A: Right now we have a great exhibit on display, with work from 11 different artists on display in the upper gallery.

We have about 45 to 50 pieces in the upper gallery. And in the lower gallery, we probably have 100 pieces shrink-wrapped and some framed. And then we have in the gift shop, probably a couple of hundred of posters. And



then about 50 limited edition framed pieces.

The current exhibit will run through the end of February. When we get into March, then we'll probably have like the Framingham Artists Guild. And then Franklin Artists Guild—we work with them too, and they have an exhibit here.

Q: Where do your artists hail from?

A: We have a lot from MetroWest and artists from Hopedale. Lisa Bailey from Franklin has been an exhibitor here for about 20 years. They're they're some of my steadfast exhibitors. I have Pearl McCarthy from Natick. I also have some artists from Framingham, Ashland, and Holliston.

Q: How did you come to own the shop?

A: I got out of Boston College with a degree in marketing and I went to work for Bradlees. I worked there for 20 years and then I decided I'd rather have my own business.

Q: What keeps you coming back?

A: I love what I'm doing because I meet some great people in my life and I love to see the expressions on their faces when they pick up the work I have done.

I think I make an impact. I have such a repeat customers, that I've been around, it's just fun to watch the generations come through here.

And I can't forget that it's just been such an important time for small businesses, trying to stay open and trying to survive and with COVID. I had the leukemia on top of that, but I'm still here. I'm surviving.

Premier Image is open weekdays, from 9 AM to noon. The shop is located at 290 Eliot St., Ashland. To reach the store, call 508-881-4730.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
9/16/2021	196 West Street	\$322,000
9/13/2021	188 Hopedale Street	\$350,000
9/13/2021	76-78 Freedom Street	\$450,000
9/13/2021	1 Charlesgate Road	\$243,000
9/10/2021	125 Dutcher Street	\$341,000
9/3/2021	3 Frances Road	\$575,000
9/2/2021	97 Jones Road	\$525,000
9/2/2021	41 Laurelwood Drive	\$328,000
9/2/2021	58 Jones Road	\$495,000
8/31/2021	29 Plain Street	\$395,000
8/27/2021	222 South Main Street	\$250,000
8/20/2021	50 Freedom Street	\$625,000
8/20/2021	3 Gaskill Circle	\$510,000
8/20/2021	13 Driftway Street	\$460,000
8/20/2021	44 Freedom Street	\$625,000
8/17/2021	1 Country Club Lane	\$690,000
8/16/2021	219 Laurelwood Drive	\$375,000

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



97 Jones Road in Hopedale recently sold for \$525,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

ATTENTION HOPEDALE RESIDENTS!



Hopedale Town News now has its own Facebook page!

Like **Hopedale Town News** on Facebook to keep up-to-date with articles, events, give-a-ways and contest announcements for **Hopedale!**

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