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Vol. 7 No. 9

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December 2021

## Helping The Community One Gift At A Time – You Can Help, Too!

What started as a group of four good friends volunteering at the food pantry in Milford, has turned into an annual toy collection drive.

Santa's Porch is a local group founded six years ago by four forever friends to collect new unwrapped toys for local families in need of holiday help.

The project started after the friends saw a need for help at the food pantry in Milford where they were volunteering monthly. The food pantry serves the communities of Hopedale, Milford and Upton but no one is every turned away.

The porch in Hopedale — and yes, it is someone's actual porch! — is open for no-contact drop off of toys.

Each year, the project has grown and now includes other fundraisers as well as local groups who help with donations and with having a dona-



tion box.

In addition to gifts, the group also accepts Venmo donations which are used to go toy shopping at the local Learning Express toys stores in Franklin and Westboro.

"They are always gracious and give us a discount helping

us buy more toys," said Lee-Ann DiPietropolo, who, along with Meg Rivett, Tracy Griffin Johnson and Laurie DiPietropolo Reynolds, started the organization.

**SANTA'S PORCH**

*continued on page 3*

## GS Troop 71010 Gives Back To Local Library

After a challenging year with COVID-19 restrictions and busy schedules, the Hopedale Girl Scout Ambassador Troop #71010, who graduated this past June, decided it would be great idea to give back to their local library.

The "final four" girls of troop #71010, Kelsey Grillo, Edda Phillips, Vivian Staheli of Hopedale and Jaiden Miller of Upton, decided to donate the remaining funds in their troop account with monies raised by selling Girl Scout Candy & Nuts and Cookie Sales to help fund the project and purchase new books.

As Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts, they had held their troop meetings at the library and also hosted sewing workshops for their Silver Award Project.

Mrs. Kraimer, the children's librarian, was always supportive of the troop and the girls love her.

Troop Leaders Kristen Grillo and Monica Phillips brought up the idea after seeing Little Libraries in Maine and at a local park in Medway and mentioned the idea.

Vivian Staheli, who also worked part-time at the library her senior



year, had mentioned that Mrs Kraimer had always wanted a Borrowing Library, especially for children and then everyone could leave with a book even if they didn't have a library card.

**LITTLE LIBRARY**

*continued on page 3*

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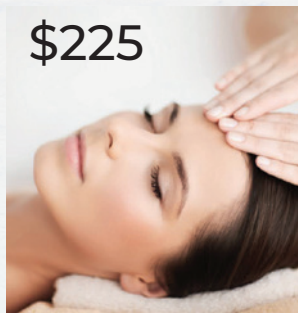
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**SANTA'S PORCH**

*continued from page 1*

The four friends had been volunteering at the food pantry for about 20 years when one year, they noticed the small toy donation room did not have nearly enough toys for the need.

“Every year our friends and community come together to help! We can never thank

the community enough,” said DiPietropolo.

Toys are distributed Tuesday and Thursday evenings in December to families who are clients of the food pantry. Last year, Santa’s Porch helped approximately 230 families and approximately 690 children.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 23.

To donate, find the address of the porch, or learn more about Santa’s Porch, visit Facebook @ santasporch or email santasporch@gmail.com. Donations can also be dropped off at the



Hopedale Community House,  
43 Hope St.

**LITTLE LIBRARY**

*continued from page 1*

“It’s such a great idea where anyone can borrow, take or leave a book and we always want to promote more reading,” said Staheli.

The group met with the Library Trustees over the summer to get permission and then researched how to purchase and register its own Little library to be installed on the library’s front lawn.

You can purchase library building kits and register with a special charter number on metal plate with the Little Free Library nonprofit organization, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/start/>.

Vivian had mentioned that her father John Staheli is a craftsman and loves woodworking

projects, so he offered to custom build the Little library with similar features of the Bancroft Library including the windows and copper roof trim.

The Troop paid for all the construction materials, supplies

gust, but due to Bancroft roof construction delays and weather, the installation was delayed until last month.

Adult parent volunteers John Staheli and Peter Grillo installed the post and then the library this



and paint and some members of the troop painted the library over the summer.

The troop then presented the library to Mrs. Kraimer with a ribbon cutting ceremony in Au-

past month.

The troop hopes everyone can enjoy this new addition to the local library and will share their favorite books.

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# Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll

**The 10th Annual Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll will be held on Sat., Dec. 4**



Photo: [www.friendsofhistorichopedale.com](http://www.friendsofhistorichopedale.com)

The stroll takes place at many stops along Hopedale Street and Dutcher Street including many historic buildings such

as the Draper Gym, Hopedale Community House, Bancroft Memorial Library, Hopedale Unitarian Church, Union Evangelical Church and the Little Red Shop Museum.

Multiple vendor locations will showcase work from local vintage vendors, hand makers, artisans, food vendors and mobile shops. Many downtown businesses also take part in the stroll with special offers for customers and refreshments. Past years have included performers setup along the route like live music at the park, costumed characters, outdoor movies and carolers roaming the route while our guests stroll from stop.

The event will end with the long standing and popular town tradition of the tree lighting and Santa visit at the Hopedale Community House.

# Court rulings received in so-called "Ten Citizen Lawsuit"

By THERESA KNAPP

The Select Board met on Friday, Nov. 19, in executive session to discuss the Nov. 4, 2021, ruling on the so-called "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 was recently re-assigned to Superior Court Justice Karen L. Goodwin.

The Order is dated Nov. 4 (entered into the record on Nov.



lectmen's Cross-Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings is DENIED as to Count I and ALLOWED as to Counts II and III.

4. It is further ORDERED that Jon Delli Priscoli, Michael R. Milanoski, One Hundred Forty Realty Trust, and Grafton & Upton Railroad Company are enjoined from carrying out any clearing or other site work on the

Property for a period of 60 days following the issuance of this decision.

The Select Board has received a letter from plaintiffs' attorney David E. Lurie urging the town "to proceed to acquire all of the Forestland."

The meeting was not open to the public because it pertains to litigation but the court ruling can be found at <https://bit.ly/30CFiiA>

PHOTO CREDIT: Theresa Knapp

11) and reads:

1. Defendants, Jon Delli Priscoli, Michael R. Milanoski [sic], One Hundred Forty Realty Trust, and Grafton & Upton Railroad Company Motion for Judgement on the Pleadings as to Count II of Plaintiffs' Verified Company is ALLOWED.

2. Plaintiff's Motion for Judgement on the Pleadings is ALLOWED as to Count I and DENIED as to Counts II and III.

3. The Town of Hopedale and the Hopedale Board of Se-

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# Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

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

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

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

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

let the pros do the heavy lifting.

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

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

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

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

## Business spotlight



service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order

a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at [www.takeawayjunk.com](http://www.takeawayjunk.com).

space and more peace of mind.

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

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

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

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

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# Hamwey Among 7 to be Inducted into Millis Hall of Fame

Local Town Pages sports writer Ken Hamwey will be inducted into Millis High School's Athletic Hall of Fame on March 19, 2022 at the Medway VFW.

The 78-year-old Hamwey, a Bellingham resident who's worked for Local Town Pages for 10 years, was a unanimous choice of the selection committee. The veteran sports journalist continues to cover feature stories in semi-retirement for Local Town Pages, focusing on seven communities — Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Wrentham, Holliston, Natick and Franklin.

Hamwey, who previously lived in Millis after earning a bachelor's degree from Babson College, started his newspaper career in 1967 with the Framingham News, now known as the Metrowest Daily News. His first story, which was published 54 years ago, focused on Millis' varsity football team. Early on, his reporting ranged from high school and college sports to the professional beat where he covered the Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots.

"I'm honored and humbled to be selected for induction into Millis' Hall of Fame," Hamwey said. "It's heart-warming to have a wonderful community like Millis recognize me for my reporting. Some of my fondest memories during a 54-year career involve Millis. Gordon Browne, a three-sport athlete at Millis High, will be presenting me at the ceremony in March and for those unaware of his stature, he was the first Tri-Valley League football player to be drafted (second round by the Jets) into the National Football League. He was an offensive tackle who blocked for quarterback Joe Namath for two years before suffering a career-ending injury."

Hamwey will be inducted as a contributor and he'll be honored along with star athletes Molly Breen, Dennis Breen (posthumously) and Rich Monaghan; coach and athletic director Peter



Vigue; the 2008-09 girls state championship basketball team and the 1980 boys track team.

After six years in Framingham, Hamwey was hired at the Providence Journal where he spent the next 35 years working for the four-time Pulitzer-prize-winning newspaper. He

finished his career there as the paper's Night Sports Editor, retiring in 2008. On Hamwey's last day in Providence, the Rhode Island State Senate read aloud a citation for his efforts and contributions to R.I. athletics. Two years later, in 2010, he was honored by the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), which presented him with its Distinguished Friend Award.

At the Metrowest News, which included the Milford News and the Country Gazette, Hamwey wrote a popular weekly column — "Yesterday's Heroes" — that focused on athletes' and coaches' past achievements.

In 2007, Hamwey began covering sports for the Bellingham Bulletin. As Sports Editor at the Bulletin, he launched a column similar to Yesterday's Heroes called "Where Are They Now," reporting on former Bellingham

athletes. For the next 11 years, Hamwey extensively covered Bellingham sports while also filing stories for Local Town Pages.

Hamwey's upcoming induction in Millis will be his first Hall of Fame honor. However, he has been nominated for induction into Bellingham's Hall of Fame but that committee has yet to select him.

Hamwey moved to Bellingham in 1972. He's married to Pauline Allard, a school teacher who taught in Bellingham at the Macy Elementary School. His son, Travis, graduated from Bellingham High in 1989.

Tickets for the ceremony cost \$50 and can be ordered until March 12, 2022. They can be obtained by writing a check to the Millis Athletics Hall of Fame and mailed to 155 Plain St., Millis, MA 02054. Tickets can also be obtained via Venmo (money amount to @Millis-AthleticsHOF). A cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. followed by the ceremony.

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# Inflation: Increase assets, borrow, and lock in debits.

Social Security recipients cheered 5.9% cost of living adjustment for 2022. As consumers, our experiences with inflation say to put the pom-poms down.

I'm not here to guess how high, how long, or place blame.

I can share some actions based on "Inflation rewards debtors and hurts creditors", a timeless premise reiterated recently by famed Yale economist Robert Shiller.

Consider the following:

**Cash is Trash.** Those shaking their fists at me, yes cash is needed for upcoming purchases, but not at 10% or more of total savings. Last 12 months, cash earned 0.1% while inflation rose 6.1%, meaning your purchasing power decreased by 6%. That's not coming back.

If cash is needed, close the gap and hedge against Fed rate increases by laddering CDs across 6, 12, 18, and 24-month terms. As CDs mature, reinvest

what isn't needed 24 months out.

**Diversify Fixed Income and Increase Assets.** With inflation outpacing Treasuries, that part of your portfolio loses buying power. Don't abandon all your treasuries, but mix in assets that tend to keep up with inflation.

Consider adding REITs (real estate investment trusts), TIPS (treasury inflation-protected securities), commodities, and equities growing their dividends consistently above inflation.

Words of caution, high-yielding stocks tend to move downward like fixed-rate bonds during inflationary times and evolve beyond "oil and gold" for commodities to include metals in renewable energy and necessities within technology.

**Buy Instead of Rent or Lease.** Bad news renters, your landlord will be hiking rates to keep pace with inflation, thus you're unprotected. Homeowners, your mortgage is fixed and the inflation-adjusted value of your

payments declines at the same rate as inflation rises. Also, the replacement value of your home tends to rise with costs of land, materials, and labor.

Buy higher quality durable goods that last longer (i.e. clothes, appliances, machinery) delaying replacement at higher costs. Autos should be bought, financed (see mortgage example), and owned for extended periods. Changing cars every 3-4 years means you're buying the same utility (transportation) at a higher price versus utility at a fixed cost of 8-10 years.

**Negotiate and Lock-In Expenses.** Subscription services, cable, internet, phone plans, insurance premiums, gym memberships, credit card APRs are recurring costs that are often negotiable. Also, discounts if prepay, pay annually, or commit to extended periods. Most not advertised, so ask.

Bigger items, you can find auto loans ~2%, HELOCs at

Prime minus 0.5%, and 15-year mortgages ~2.5%.

Determine if you can manage 15-year mortgage payments, even if currently 3.2% on a 30-year refinance. Consider \$500K at 3.2% 30-year is \$2,162 month with ~\$278K total interest versus 2.5% 15-year is \$3,333 month with ~\$100K total interest.

You can't control how inflation rises and falls, but you can control financial decisions today that will help manage inflation tomorrow. To learn more, talk with your Certified Financial Planner.

*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,*



Glenn Brown

*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.*

## Hopedale Appointments and Resignations

### Police, fire, and building departments

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has appointed Brian Bujold to the Hopedale Police Department as a part-time dispatcher. In a letter of recommendation to the board, Chief of Police Mark Giovanella said "Brian has experience with police and fire dispatching and the necessary certifications for this position." The board voted

unanimously to appoint him effective immediately.

The Select Board has accepted the resignation of Brandon Blaisdell from the Hopedale Fire Department. Blaisdell has been a call firefighter for more than two years but noted increased work and family obligations will not allow him to continue with the department.

The Select Board appointed Stephen Johnson as Assistant Building Inspector "effective immediately" (Oct. 25, 2021). Johnson is the Assistant Building Inspector in Upton and does similar work in Bellingham. He is filling a position that has been vacant since current Building Commissioner Tim Aicardi was promoted from the position.

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# Town receives \$75,000 to address traffic issues in village center

## Grant is through the state's Rural and Small Town program

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale has received a \$75,000 Rural and Small Town Grant from the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development as part of its Community One Stop for Growth program.

The Select Board accepted the grant at its meeting on Oct. 25, at which time Town Administrator Diana Schindler said the grant will be used to address current and future traffic-related issues in the village center and in anticipation of redevelopment of the Draper area.

"We applied for a traffic, parking, and circulation study for the village center primarily to focus on the redevelopment in the village center, but also to deal with our current traffic and circulation issues including [the use of] feeder streets for parking, [and] where our parking lots are versus the traffic flow."

According to [www.mass.gov/](http://www.mass.gov/), the Rural and Small Town grants are awarded to towns with populations less than 7,000 or with a population density of less than 500 persons per square mile.

Grant proposals are scored on achievable project scope, ability to execute, timeline, budget commitment, outcomes and impact, progress to date, and more.

According to the site, awards can range from \$50,000 to \$400,000 and can be used for pre-construction, survey, design and engineering; construction costs; construction administration (project management, traffic control, public safety details, etc.); feasibility studies related to future capital projects; land acquisition; and projects that create or support housing.

Schindler says the grant will be used to hire a consultant. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2023.

# Select Board members encourage public to meet with them one-on-one

By THERESA KNAPP

Over the summer, the Select Board agreed to make themselves available to meet individually with members of the public, much like "office hours."

The initiative began in September and began with a slow start. Board members encourage residents to review the available meeting times on the town website and drop by the Draper Room at Town Hall if they are interested in a one-on-one conversation with a member of the Select Board.

For more information and a full schedule, visit <https://bit.ly/3qRdiDc>

Individual Select Board members' meeting schedule Meetings to be held in the Draper Room		
Date	Time	Select Board Member
Dec. 20, 2021	Noon to 1:30 p.m.	Louis J. Arcudi, III
Jan. 24, 2022	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Glenda A. Hazard
Feb. 28, 2022	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Brian R. Keyes
March 28, 2022	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Louis J. Arcudi, III
April 25, 2022	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Glenda A. Hazard
May 23, 2022	11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Brian R. Keyes
June 27, 2022	TBA	TBA

Source: [www.hopedale-ma.gov/](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/)

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# Living Healthy

## Laser Cataract Surgery Closer to Home: The Best Technology for 2022

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

### What is a cataract and what is cataract surgery?

A cataract is a common condition in which the normally clear lens of the eye becomes progressively cloudy. When light passes through a clear lens, the light can focus to a point, creating a clear view. When light passes through a cataract, the light gets distorted, creating a blurred view. Treatment for cataracts involves surgery to remove the cataract and replace it with an intraocular lens implant. It is the most common surgical procedure in the US and around the world and is considered to be an extremely successful and safe procedure. It's an exciting time to be offering cataract surgery! Laser technology and advanced

lens implants allow not only for clear vision but also for reduction in need for glasses.

### What is laser cataract surgery?

Many of the steps of cataract surgery are traditionally performed using handheld tools. Now, they can be completed with the precision of a laser. Using the Catalys Precision Laser System, your surgeon can offer you unprecedented accuracy and customization in your cataract surgery procedure. Your surgeon can use the laser to create a circular opening for accessing and removing the cataract. Clinical studies have shown that this opening is more accurate when performed with the laser than what is achievable by hand. The laser then softens and breaks up the hard cataract into tiny pieces, allowing for gentler, easier cata-

ract removal. Depending on your pre-operative vision and desired visual result, your surgeon may recommend a tailored treatment plan that could include creating ultra-precise laser incisions in the cornea and a specific lens implant type. This tailored treatment may reduce your need for glasses or contact lenses after surgery.

### What are my choices for lens implants during surgery?

Once a cataract is removed this cloudy lens will be replaced with an implant called an intraocular lens or an IOL. IOLs can have a wide range of capabilities. Given as they are a lens, they can have different focusing properties. IOLs can be correcting for a single focus point, correct for astigmatism, or correct for all distances.

### What is a standard, Single focus implant?

A standard single focus implant or monofocal implant corrects for a single distance only. It is unable to focus at all distances. Glasses will be needed after surgery to focus at other distances. This implant is covered by all insurances at the time of the cataract surgery.

### What is a Toric IOL?

A toric IOL is also a single focus implant, but it is also able to correct corneal astigmatism. Many patients have always had astigmatism and the standard implant will improve their vision. The Toric IOL will allow for these patients to be able to see clearly at a set distance without the aid of glasses (most patients choose distance).

### What is a multifocal implant?

A Multifocal implant corrects for vision at all distances - near, intermediate, and far. This IOL allows for many patients to be free of glasses. Its advantage is the true capacity to provide a much more functional ability; ability to drive, read a cell phone, read the dash, read a note. For more strenuous activities such as doing taxes, reading the small print on a medication bottle or prolonged detailed close work, at times, a minor pair of over-the-counter reading glasses may also make such tasks more comfortable.

There are several types of these implants that are FDA approved: The Panoptix implant is a true trifocal implant allowing for comfortable all-distance vision. The Vivity implant is similar to Panoptix with night vision risks however may require more help for close reading tasks.

### What are the risks of a multifocal implant?

In the early days after the implantation with the multifocal implant many patients notice some glare and halos. These are a direct result of the concentric rings of the implants that also produce the near and the distance image. After a period of



adjustment, most patients glare and halos subside significantly, although they will always be there if one looks for them. The new Vivity implant causes much less risk of halos.

### Who is not a good candidate for multifocal implants?

It is very important to note that a multifocal implant may not be the best choice for all patients. Some patients with some eye conditions, such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal disease or glaucoma, may be better candidates for monofocal implants or for the Vivity implant.

### Why choose our practice and surgery center?

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# Could chocolate-covered cannabis be on the menu at former Green Mountain Chocolate?

## Marijuana business purchased building, intends to collaborate with chocolatiers

By THERESA KNAPP



Site of the former Green Mountain Chocolate, 1 Rosenfeld Drive, has been sold to Blackstone Valley Naturals, LLC. Credit: www.greenmountainchocolate.com/

The owners of Blackstone Valley Naturals, LLC, a marijuana establishment currently located in Uxbridge, have purchased 1 Rosenfeld Drive, the former location of Green Mountain Chocolate which closed its doors in June.

Co-owners Kevin MacConnell and Timothy Phillips met with the Hopedale Select Board on Nov. 8 to start discussions regarding a Host Community Agreement as it considers moving from Uxbridge (where they started in 2018) to Hopedale.

The owners say the new building is approximately 1,000 square feet larger than the current building they rent, and there is an additional acre of undeveloped land that could be used for future expansion.

“What’s the most exciting for us about the new building in Hopedale is how it’s already fully set up for food grade manufacturing,” MacConnell said.

“Green Mountain Chocolate, to me, has always had the best local chocolate,” Phillips said, adding that the Campbells [former owners of the chocolate company] have ownership in the business.

“We believe the cannabis industry is really lacking a quality chocolate-based product and Bill and Lisa [Campbell] really dialed that in; so if we can meet in the middle and bring the cannabis to their excellent recipes in what they’ve built over the last 25 years, we think it’s going to be a home run,” Phillips said.

In a Facebook post on June 9 on the Green Mountain Chocolate page, the Campbells announced their retirement saying, “We sold our business and building to a company that will not be continuing with chocolate, so this is definitely the end of the line for Green Mountain Chocolate... Lisa & Bill.”

Blackstone Valley Naturals holds a “microbusiness” license, the second such license granted in the state, says MacConnell.

According to www.mass-cannabis-control.com, a micro-business “is a collated Tier 1

Marijuana Cultivator, and/or Marijuana Product Manufacturer limited to purchase 2,000 pounds of marijuana from other [marijuana establishments] in one year.” Under such a license, they cannot operate more than one facility “so this would be a complete move from Uxbridge to Hopedale,” MacConnell said, adding they can also transport product to dispensaries only.

MacConnell noted the new site could be up and running quickly because they will transfer active plants. “What’s really unique about this situation is, once our license is transferred to that building, we’re instantly able to start cultivating and generating revenue for the town.”

Select Board Chairman Brian Keyes said the town has been “selectively receptive to members of the business community that are looking to come to Hopedale in the cannabis industry.”

There are currently a handful of marijuana businesses in the works in Hopedale; and High Hopes, a recreational cannabis

dispensary, opened for business in June in the Airport Industrial & Business Park.

The area is zoned for cannabis businesses but will require a

special permit.

Blackstone Valley Naturals is expected to be back before the Select Board on Nov. 22, 2021.

# Hopedale - Bancroft Memorial Library News

## Library Director

The Bancroft Memorial Library Trustees are pleased to welcome Tricia Perry as the new director of the Library. Tricia is

an experienced library director, having served in this position at both the Westwood Public Library and the Millis Public Library. Tricia holds a master's degree in Library and Infor-

mation Science from Simmons College and a bachelor's in Economics and Government from Smith College. Library Trustees invite residents to stop by the Library to meet Tricia and catch up with other library staff members.

of anthropomorphic creamers. These creamers are over 100 years old! Some of these pieces are by the manufacturer Schaefer & Vater. Come on down to the Library to view the collection and learn more! We would like to thank Bobbie Elfland for sharing such a fun collection.

book jacket CWMARS catalog

The book to be discussed in January will be *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. "Taken hostage by an unsuccessful bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers--including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages, and a plucky octogenarian--discover their unexpected common traits." – CWMARS catalog

## 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

Holiday Harmony Quartet Saturday, December 4, 2021, 2 pm (snow date 12/11)

Please join us on Saturday, December 4th from 2-3pm for a holiday concert with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet. This special event will take place in the upstairs Reading Room. The program will last approximately an hour. To reserve your seat please contact library staff at 508-634-2209 or stop by the upstairs circulation desk. Seats are limited!

Are you interested in joining The Friends of the Hopedale Library? The Friends meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We always welcome new members! Please call or stop by the upstairs circulation desk to join.

The Friends of the Hopedale Library support the Library by providing funds for equipment, materials and programs to supplement the regular operating budget. They offer adult events September- June and fund 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

**Sacred Heart Church "Twice Blessed" Thrift Shop**  
Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are directly impacted by Covid-19.

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## Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24th  
Closed  
Saturday, December 25th  
Closed  
Friday, December 31st  
10am - 2pm  
Saturday, January 1st  
Closed

## Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll

Stop by the Library on Saturday, December 4 as part of the Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll! We will be open from 10am to 3pm. There will be a make-and-take holiday craft suitable for all ages in the Children's Room. The Friends of the Hopedale Library will also present a holiday concert with the local acapella group, Holiday Harmony Quartet at 2pm. Please call the Library at (508)634-2209 to reserve your seat for the concert!

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# Sports

## Parker Returns to Soccer Field Once Again

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

When Will Parker entered Hopedale Junior /Senior High School, he found himself playing both soccer and baseball on the junior varsity teams.

He made the tough decision that he was going to forgo playing soccer further so that he could concentrate on his baseball career.

But when the soccer team came calling for his help, Parker once again laced up his cleats to help out his fellow classmates.

“Baseball is my main sport, I’ve been playing it my entire life; it’s my passion and definitely, in my personal opinion, my dominant sport,” Parker said. “I decided to come back to soccer last year, my junior year, when my friends begged for my help. They knew they weren’t going to have a goalie this year (their senior campaign), so they convinced me to try out.”

Soccer Coach Greg LaBossiere was glad that his team took it upon themselves to recruit Parker, who has committed to play baseball for the Division 1 West Point Black Knights in New York.

“The team knew that we were not going to have a goalie come their senior season, so a couple of his buddies approached him to come out for the team last year,” the Blue Raider Coach said. “I knew about him as I teach in the Hopedale School system, but he really blew me away with his leadership skills and the way that he competes.”

As a first year starting goalie, Parker helped lead the Blue Raiders to a 9-4-1 regular season and a chance to play in the Central Mass Tournament. With no goalie coach on the Hopedale sidelines, LaBossiere only knew the basics of the position, but Parker was not only coachable, he picked things up quickly and feels comfortable playing the position.

In addition to the Coach giving him some pointers, it was the team that helped Parker to get ready to play his new position on the varsity level for the first time.

“Before the tryouts, the team

after a few weeks, I was pretty used to playing the position, although I still found diving to be a problem.”

Prior to his senior season getting underway, Parker continued

his goalie’s performance.

“Honestly, it’s expected of him to make some mistakes here and there, but it hasn’t been anything that has hurt us. He has come up big when we needed him to

him, but his teammates. And in addition to having a talent group around him he has gotten to play with friend and Hopedale’s sophomore back-up goalie Alex Lannibios.

“This year, skillwise, has been one of the better teams that Hopedale has put on the soccer field, and I was glad to play alongside all these skilled athletes,” Parker said. “The defense in front of me has definitely been helpful in getting me through the season. It has been a pleasure to help the team out, but I have enjoyed every single minute of it and to have Alex, who has been a friend and neighbor for 12 years, was great.”

What the future holds for Parker in the terms of soccer is undetermined at this point as baseball is still his top priority, but one never knows.

“I’ll see after this year if I ever play soccer again, as baseball is my true passion and love,” he said. “But you never know what will happen down the road.”

Hopedale entered the Division 4 Central Mass Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) boys’ soccer tournament as the number one seed. The Blue Raiders took out Narragansett 6-0 behind the shutout performance of Parker and Lannibios splitting the goaltending duties. In the next round Parker continued his mastery of the goal by shutting out West Boylston 3-0 leading the Blue Raiders into the Finals where they defeated Whitinsville-Christian 4-1 for the CMADA Division 4 Championship.



worked with me, and I attended the captains’ practices so that I would be ready. My first year I was the team’s back-up and played halves here and there,” Parker said. “This year I was the starting goalie and was a little rusty to begin the season; I had played the field and was used to doing a lot of passing, goalie is a whole new position.”

Friends and teammates DJ Tucker (attack and midfielder) and Steven Marchionni (center defensive mid) had the pleasure of getting Parker ready for his debut.

“They just kept taking shots on me from all different angles so that I could get used to the position. I felt they got me prepared for the most part, but I was still unsure of my diving; it took me a while to learn it because each time I did it I would get turf burn. Eventually I just learned to accept it,” the new goalie said. “Luckily, I’m pretty athletic and

to go about his normal baseball routines and workouts to get ready. He attended captains’ practices once again, but more seriously as he knew that he had to be prepared for the other 12 seniors as it meant a lot to them being their final year on the field together.

Parker entered the season looking to be the best keeper that he possibly could be, not only for himself but the rest of the team. He wasn’t worried about being a captain as that was not his type of thing. His first varsity start was typical of a first-time varsity starter.

“That first game I had the classic case of the nerves before the game,” he said. “But I feel it was more anxiousness and excitement more than anything else. By my second game I was all right.”

Although the senior has made some first-year mistakes, overall the coach is quite pleased with

and he had a phenomenal game against Ashland (a 1-0 win),” LaBossiere said. “He had 4 or 5 shutouts, which is amazing for a first-year goalie, I think that his athleticism definitely helped, and he worked extremely hard to get ready for the season. He came in physically fit and throughout the season Dual Valley Coaches would continuously come up to me and ask where he came from.”

Parker, despite being the last line of defense in front of the net, feels the credit is not due to



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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	2 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	3 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
6 9:00 am Free Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	7 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:00 am Sr. Center Holiday Party 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	8 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9 10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Trim the Tree Coffee Hour 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
13 9:00 am Free Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	14 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	15 9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	16 10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Knitters' Group 1:00 pm Tai Chi	17 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
20 9:00 am Free Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	21 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	22 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	23 1:00 pm Tai Chi	24 CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 
27 9:00 am Free Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm Memoir Writing	28 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 1:00 pm Bridge	29 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	30 12:00 pm Lunch at Sr. Center 1:00 pm Tai Chi	31 CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS 

*Christmas Eve*

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# Senior Center News

## Free Wellness Clinic with Nurse Mary Watson

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 15  
Mary can take your vital signs and answer your general questions. Please stop in for a friendly visit. This time of year can be stressful. Talk with Mary. All information shared is confidential.

## Podiatry Clinic

8:30 a.m. - Noon  
Friday, Jan. 7, 2022  
Dr. Biancamano returns! New participants welcome.  
By appointment only. Please call 508-634-2208

## Heating Assistance (SMOC)

The Hopedale Senior Center is taking appointments to assist with applications for the 2021-2022 Fuel Assistance season  
SMOC re-certification paperwork was sent later than usual. New Fuel Assistance clients can make appointments for application assistance now for the program's Nov. 1, 2021 start date.  
Income guidelines are: 1 person \$40,951/2 people \$53,551  
Please call 508-634-2208. All inquiries are confidential

## Open enrollment for Medicare Medical and Drug Insurance Plans

Through Dec. 7, 2021  
This is the period for all Medicare enrollees to evaluate their current Medical and Drug insurance coverage. Assistance is available through the SHINE program. Call 508-634-2208

## Having trouble finding a COVID-19 Booster?

Call the Hopedale Senior Center at 508-634-2208

# Free Basketball Admission For Hopedale Alumni Members

The Hopedale Alumni Association is pleased to once again offer free admission to all regular season Hopedale Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball home games for all Lifetime Alumni Members.

Lifetime Members should present their Alumni ID card - or a valid photo ID - at the ticket desk for membership verification to take advantage of this offering.

Additional details can be found at: <http://hopedale-alumni.org>



## LIBRARY

*continued from page 12*

### Good Neighbor Mitten Tree

Beginning November 26, our Good Neighbor Mitten Tree will be up in the Children's Room. We invite our generous patrons to donate handmade or newly purchased hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to be given to the Milford Food Pantry. Please add your name to one of the holiday angels decorating our tree, along with your gift. You can make this winter a bit warmer for someone! Please contact Mrs. Kraimer (508-634-2209) with any questions.

### This is Hanukkah!

Join Mrs. Kraimer for some special Hanukkah fun on Wednesday, December 1 at 6:15pm. Listen to some Hanukkah stories and music. Then make a craft! This program is for ages 6 and up. Space is limited

so call Mrs. Kraimer today at (508)634-2209 to register.

### Let It Snow!

Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the Bancroft Memorial Library is so delightful with a special snowman-themed storytime with Mrs. Kraimer on Monday, December 6 at 6pm. Listen to snowman stories and paint a wooden snowman for your holiday table! This program is for ages 5 and up. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register.

### December Story Hours

Story Hours are starting up in December on Tuesdays at 3:15pm (Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28) for ages 3 and up. Listen to stories, sing songs, and take home a craft. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register today!

### Salt Dough Ornaments

Decorate an ornament for your tree on Wednesday, December 15 at 3:30pm for ages 3 and up. Mrs. Kraimer has baked salt dough ornaments. All they need

is some paint! Come join in on the fun. Space is limited so call Mrs. Kraimer (508)634-2209 to register.

### Game Day

Looking for something to do over vacation? Come to the Library from 2-4pm on Wednesday, December 29 to play some games! Tables will be set up for board games, Legos, and Pokemon. This activity is open to ages 5 and up. Please call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209.

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook, sign up at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/subscribe> to receive library news via email, add the Mobile App to your phone for up-to-date reminders, and sign up at [www.wowbrary.org](http://www.wowbrary.org) to discover the Library's newest books, movies and music. The library webpage is <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.

# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
11/01/2021	9 Nelson Street	\$405,000
10/29/2021	168-170 S Main Street	\$460,333
10/28/2021	30 Laurelwood Drive	\$340,000
10/28/2021	3 Tillotson Road	\$700,000
10/15/2021	55 Hill Street	\$282,500
10/08/2021	194 West Street	\$315,000

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

**Below: 55 Hill Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$282,500. Image credit: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)**





**Jack Broderick**  
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**Looking to advertise in our Real Estate Corner?**

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

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  - 4 Sponsored Digital Articles per year.
- Logo/URL under Local Spotlight on Town Homepage.
  - 3-30 day, sidebar ads to use within the year.

*For more package info and to reserve your spot, please contact Jeremy Wardwell at 413-204-5296 or by email at [jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com](mailto:jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com) **Only 10 available per site!** They will go quick!*

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