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April 2022

Hopedale discusses possible override

By THERESA KNAPP

As municipal budget season kicks into full gear, Hopedale town officials have started discussing the possibility of an override.

At the Select Board meeting on March 14, Town Administrator Diana Schindler said, "We don't know for certain, this is just the first round/first draft of the budget, but yes there's a deficit of about \$500,000... that's just what we need to balance this year's budget."

Schindler explained the budget process which includes asking department heads for their requested budgets for next year as well as a requested budget (a "wish list," as coined by Select Board member Glenda Hazard). Schindler then compiles that information and provides it to the Finance Committee.

Select Board member Louis Arcudi III said he reviewed a recording of a FinComm meeting held in early March

Hopedale budget "in the red"

Hopedale Select Board Chair Brian Keyes says the town cannot pay its bills.

"We are in a situation right now, fiscally and financially, we are in the red – like serious, like 'race car' in the red," Keyes said at the board's March 9 meeting in a conversation about whether to pursue additional legal action against the Grafton and Upton Railroad over land at 364 West Street. To date, cases related to that property have tipped the town's legal budget, and the town has other legal bills as well.

"We are in this situation right now, that without a transfer of draining funds from another department, we cannot pay our legal bills. So that is one aspect, one dynamic, it's one major responsibility that we have as a board in factoring in future action items. We can't even settle current action items based on the fiscal condition of where we are with all of this litigation."

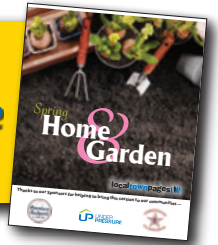
where that board was discussing a possible "\$1.7 million override." Schindler said she had spoken with the FinComm and surmised the reference to "\$1.7 million" was likely the total of the "wish list" budgets for FY23.

"They were concerned when they saw some of the department budgets... With all of the department head estimates, just with year over year, there is

VERRIDE

continued on page 2

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Spring Home & Garden Guide
Inside ...



On March 15, 2022, while E2, Tanker 2, C2 and C1 were on scene in Milford for a three-alarm fire, for the first time in history, the Hopedale Fire Department was covered by an all-female crew, according to a post shared on Facebook @HopedaleFireDepartment. This historic event took place during Women's History Month in a community founded in 1843 on the principles of "temperance, abolitionism, women's rights, spiritualism and education." (Wikipedia)

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VERRIDE

continued from page 1

a gap in funding and then many of the departments have asked for additional staff or capital” above that, said Schindler. “New hires alone was just a little over \$600,000 and then there were some capital items in the budgets as well.”

Schindler said, “There were some real reactions to that [data she presented] but I think, again, we do have to look at it this year over last year and then try to look at the additional requests separately.”

Schindler explained the town is early in the budget process and does not yet know what money it will receive from the state, but said the town has a firm grasp on its expenses and knows it will have at least \$655,000 in free cash.

There is an article on the warrant for the March 26 special town meeting that discusses budget transfers. Arcudi said the FinComm discussed that and “It was somewhat disturbing, they looked at Article 1 and they said they were going to probably not recommend doing any of those adds.”

Schindler said any additions to the budget should be put before town meeting for a vote. Town officials expressed concern with the practice of relying on free cash within the annual budget, a concern that had been raised in previous years when seeking ways to cover a budget gap.

Green River Cannabis seeks third address change and will likely seek zoning change

BY THERESA KNAPP

Green River Cannabis Company, Inc. is working hard to open an adult cannabis retail

store in Hopedale but is having trouble finding the right location. March 14 to discuss, unofficially, a third site after the first two - 54 Mellen Street and 5E Condon Way (site currently listed on the

Keyes explained, “The three boards have different roles and responsibilities, they all have their different oversight so

room to grow.

This latest change of address would require a zoning change which would go before town



Green River Cannabis Company, Inc., seeks to open an adult cannabis retail store in the shopping plaza at 150-156 Hartford Avenue, abutting Charlesview Road. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

store in Hopedale but is having trouble finding the right location.

Company part-owner and Attleboro lawyer Constant Poholek, Jr. was back before the Hopedale Select Board on

Host Community Agreement) - were not supported by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Poholek said the ZBA indicated it would not approve the Condon Way site because there was not enough parking. He expressed frustration with the process saying he feels he is “going around in circles” trying to build his business in Hopedale. He said the Select Board had unofficially given its support to the project but then the ZBA denied it.

Poholek said, “I believe the Zoning Board, Planning Board, and the Selectmen [sic] are not all on the same page as it relates to what is happening with cannabis retail.”

Select Board Chair Brian

there’s going to be things that are aligned and there’s going to be things that are not aligned in regards to the charter of that particular board.”

Now, Green River Cannabis is considering a shop in the 150-156 Hartford Avenue shopping plaza (in the former Rose Day Spa) where there is ample parking. It is located near the intersection of Routes 126 and 140, and abuts Caroline’s Cannabis at 4 Charlesview Road.

Poholek said he has spoken with the plaza owner and has obtained a Letter of Intent. He said the nature of his business is a “small, appointment-only type of business with a limited traffic flow” and this location also offers

meeting and require a two-thirds majority vote. The area is zoned commercial but is not zoned for cannabis use.

Select Board member Louis Arcudi III suggested Poholek speak to the Planning Board “to see what their appetite is of changing that zone to cannabis under commercial” and gauge whether they would be willing to put the issue on the annual town meeting warrant in May.

Keyes said, if the Planning Board is amenable, “it makes this board’s ability to say yes to an address change, even though the zoning would still have to go through a town meeting, a bit more amenable.”

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Select board receives donations and grants

By THERESA KNAPP

In February and March, the Hopedale Select Board accepted or acknowledged the following donations, grants and appropriations:

- Donation to the Hopedale Fire Department in the amounts of \$50 and \$100 from Gladys M. Henderson for providing assistance to her family
- Donation to the Hopedale Fire Department in the amount of \$20 from Sue and Chris Lynch in memory of Eleanor Tusia
- \$50,000 grant received and earmarked for open space, to be used by the Conservation Commission on boundary work, cleanup, signage and trailing markings
- \$2 million appropriation se-



Hopedale recently received a \$2 million appropriation for a water supply and storage enhancement project which includes building a new water tank at 187 Freedom Street, pictured here. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

cured for a water supply and storage enhancement project, with the help of Rep. Jake Auchincloss

- Grant received, amount unknown, to help with costs

associated with animal control regional effort

Select board makes appointments and accepts resignations

By THERESA KNAPP

At meetings of the Hopedale Select Board in February and March, the board made the following appointments:

- Call Firefighter Jennifer Richard to Permanent Firefighter/EMT, effective December 6, 2021
- Call Firefighter-Candidate Katherine D'Alessandro to Call Firefighter, effective March 1, 2022
- Call Firefighter-Candidate Gavin Martin to Call Firefighter, effective March 1
- Call Firefighter-Candidate Casey Sweet to Call Firefighter, effective March 1
- Gail Brown to the Hopedale Cultural Council, effective March 14

The Select Board also accepted the following resignations:

- Saken Khokhar from the Economic Development Committee, effective March 8
- Officer Robert Doyon from the Hopedale Police Department, effective March 9
- Linda McEwan from the Hopedale Cultural Council, effective March 14

The board also accepted a Notice of Disclosure from Elizabeth Callahan who is a member of the town's Finance Committee which will be making recommendations on the upcoming special town meeting warrant which contains several items related to the Grafton & Upton Railroad. Callahan states her first cousin is married to a legal representative for the GURR.

Outdoor Pickleball Coming to Hopedale



This fabulous alternative to tennis is sweeping the country. A group has been playing inside at eh Draper Gym and now, The Community House will be installing outdoor Pickleball courts over the next couple months. The courts will be located outside the gym next to the newly created parking lot. The Sr. Cen-

ter and the Community House will post announcements closer to the completion of the courts. We want people to get excited about the availability of this new

option for fun, socialization and great exercise. Please contact us at 508-634-2208 if you are interested.

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Water and Sewer Commission objects to continued land clearing citing potential impacts on future wells

By THERESA KNAPP

The Select Board is in receipt of a letter dated Feb. 18, 2022, from the Water & Sewer Commission Chair Ed Burt stating the W&S Commission objects to the Grafton Upton Railroad's "continued land clearing proposal within the 364 West St property in the name of water supply exploration...The negative impact to the current water supply caused by any more land

clearing within the West St watershed would only exacerbate today's water supply concerns and issues. This point cannot be emphasized enough."

Burt noted the Water & Sewer Commission has legal responsibility over the "oversight of the water supply, watershed and water exploration" and asked the Select Board to "please represent our decisions and opinions as part of the West St court proceedings accordingly."

Burt said the commission "has NOT approved any resources (financial, equipment or personnel) to be utilized for such a project, nor have we received Town Meeting authorization to do so."

Burt said there are current projects that need to be completed to confirm potential impacts on any new water supply aspects at the West Street location, including (1) completing the existing new water source exploration in the Green Street area;

(2) complete the new water tank design, funding research and possible construction; and (3) complete the PFAS removal research, funding options and associated plant upgrades.

"Each project has an impact on the requirements and timing of any potential future wells at West St, making all of them a priority ahead of the West St exploration," Burt said.

The letter also said that, due to the high cost to connect any

West Street source to the existing town infrastructure, any potential West St location should be planned together with the Milford Water Company. That planning has not yet begun and any potential location has not been vetted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The full letter can be found on the town website at <https://bit.ly/37OQaxL>

Hopedale adopts Code of Conduct and Ethics for town boards and commissions

Document was created after public complained about conduct of public officials

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has adopted a "Unified Code of Conduct and Ethics for Town Officials" as a standard for expectations of public officials."

This document is in addition to the guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission for public boards and commissions.

The six-page document was drafted by Select Board member Louis Arcudi III after the public discussed conduct complaints with him during his

individual Select Board office hours in December.

The document's purpose statement states, "The intent of this policy is to establish a clear statement and guidelines to serve as the standard for achieving and maintaining a high level of public confidence, trust, and professional respect regarding how the Town and its officials conduct business. This policy will define and create a centralized policy regarding conduct and ethical standards."

A draft was presented in Janu-

ary, was shared with other boards and commissions for comment, and then formally adopted by the Select Board at its meeting on Feb. 28.

The document includes many bullet points under obligations, relationships to fellow board members and other persons, and community responsibility.

Specific language asks board members to treat each other with respect, recognize the chief function of local government is to serve the best interests of all people, honor confidential information, and conduct themselves to maintain public confidence in their local government and in the performance of the public trust, etc.

Other guidelines include accepting differences of opinion as building blocks of the democratic process; treat others with personal respect and act in a civil manner toward them; concentrate all dialogue on the issue and refrain from personal criticism; and speak in a civil manner and not harass or bully citizens, other Board members, the Town Administrator, or employees; etc.

It also asks board members to accept the office of Select Board member as a means of unselfish public service with no intent to 'play politics' in any sense of the word, or to benefit personally from their Select Board activities.

Select Board Chair Brian Keyes said this new policy is not just for the Select Board but is for all boards and commissions. He said the document would be enforced by the Select Board and, if there were any issues within the Select Board, the board would police itself.

The policy specifically states:

Any Select Board member violating the Code of Conduct may be removed from Committee assignments and from Board assignments by the Chair and may be subject to public censure by the Select Board

During a meeting, the Chair may, after an initial warning, remove a member or citizen from a meeting who acts in an inappropriate manner, is unruly or disorderly

The full document can be found on the town website at <https://bit.ly/3Ju76HM>

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Let me share a secret, if your wealth is mostly in tax deferred retirement accounts (i.e. 401(k)s, 403(b)s and Traditional IRAs), your taxes will be much more than you realize.

Income Sources

Retirees receive income from a variety of sources, including distributions from tax deferred retirement accounts; payouts from company pensions and annuities; rental income; savings and earnings from investments.

Tax deferred retirement accounts enjoyed tax-deferred growth on contributions and investments; but when distributions are taken, these are fully taxable as earned income and added to your adjusted gross income (AGI).

What if you don’t need the funds? Don’t worry the government wants its taxes, so starting at age 72 you have Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

For example, at age 62 your spouse and you retire with \$1.25M across all tax deferred retirement accounts. You live within your means, don’t take from these accounts and grow 7.2% annually. By age 72, the accounts total \$2.5M and time for RMDs. Per IRS Table III divide by 25.6 at age 72 for \$97,656 taken as RMD, taxed as earned income and added to your AGI.

Social Security

Factors such as your total income and marital status determine what/if a portion of your Social Security benefits are taxable. If your AGI plus any tax-free interest exceeds \$34K for individuals or \$44K for married filing jointly, then up to 85% of Social Security benefits are taxable.

Ways To Minimize Taxes

Taxes are inevitable with retirement savings or pension income, but there are many strategies to reduce amounts owed, here are a few:

During Retirement - Distribute funds in certain years of claiming large deductions, such as the breaks for medical expenses or charitable gifts, temporarily lower your tax rate.

Before Retirement - Contribute to Roth 401(k) and Roth IRA (if eligible) now. After age 59 1/2 and owned for at least 5 years, withdrawals are completely tax free. Added bonus is RMDs don’t exist for Roth accounts nor are balances in Roth accounts a factor in determining RMDs for your tax deferred accounts.

Before or During - Roth Conversion and Backdoor Roth. Yes, pay the taxes now for benefits listed in the prior paragraph. Consider greater amounts in years of lower income if self-employed, change jobs and/or take away from work. Also, 20% (or more) market corrections provide an opportunity to convert investments over to Roth, pay less in taxes and let them rebound inside the Roth.

There are many more strate-



Glenn Brown

gies to consider beyond this limited space. Bottom line, plan now for the tax implications of your retirement income.

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.

12th Annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk

Sponsored by the Hopedale High School Boosters Club

BY ROB RUSSELL

After a two year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hopedale Boosters Club is excited to announce the return of our annual 5K Run/Walk race. Considering the past two years of uncertainty and isolation, we are hoping to get a lot of interest in this race and return to some normalcy in our lives.

The 12th annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by the Hopedale Boosters, will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at the Hopedale Jr-Sr High School at 25 Adin Street in Hopedale. It is expected that over 250 runners and walkers will be making the trek again over the relatively flat course through downtown Hopedale. A Hopedale version of Heartbreak Hill after mile 2 will separate the pack.

The 5k Run/Walk is held annually in memory of Coach Larry Olsen who led Hopedale’s Girls Cross Country and Track teams to tremendous success. Coach Olsen was a highly decorated runner is greatly missed by Hopedale and the entire running community. It has been wonderful to see the community rally for the past 11 years around this event!

This event is the biggest fundraiser for the Hopedale Boosters and the money raised is used to support the student athletes of Hopedale Junior/Senior High School and many other student body activities. The Boosters provide senior scholarships, donations to senior activities and year book committee in addition to funding requests that support the school athletic teams.

Number pickup and race-day registration will begin at 8:00 AM. The pre-entry fee is \$30; \$20 for ages 21 and younger. A free dry-fit T-shirt will be given to those who register by April 20th. Runners can register online at www.active.com or by using the QR code shown here. In addition to the race, there will be a variety of raffle prizes to be won that are being graciously donated by local businesses. The 5K race will begin at 10:00AM.

Any person, organization or company wishing to donate raffle items or become an official sponsor should contact the Boosters at Hopedale5k@gmail.com as there are many levels of sponsorship available including t-shirts, bibs and signage. No donation is too small to support our student ath-

letes.

Professional timekeeping will be provided by Tri-Valley Front Runners. Medals will be given to the top three male and female runners in each age category. Running or walking with strollers and pets is allowed and encouraged.

Parking, restrooms and complimentary snacks and water will be available.

Join us on May 14th for a fun filled day of Hopedale Blue Raider pride and community spirit!

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Open burning season continues through May 1

Permits can be obtained at fire headquarters

The Hopedale Fire Department has announced permits for open burning can now be obtained at Fire Headquarters (40 Dutcher Street). The cost of the permit is \$5.00 payable by cash or check only.

The permit is good for the entire season however it needs to be activated each day.

According to Open Burning Safety guidelines at Mass.gov, open burning must be done:

- After obtaining a permit from the local fire department
- Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from Jan. 15 to May 1
- At least 75 feet from all dwellings
- As close as possible to the source of material being burned
- When air quality is acceptable for burning: Call the MassDEP Air Quality Ho-

line at (800) 882-1497 or visit MassAir Online at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/> to find out if it is safe to burn

Items that CANNOT be burned include:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires
- Construction material and debris
- Items that can be burned include:
 - Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
 - Agricultural materials such as fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease

control.

- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood ONLY if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

How to safely ignite and tend the fire:

- An adult should always be present during open burning, until it is completely extinguished.
 - Children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.
 - Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood, parts of a discarded Christmas tree can be used.
 - NEVER use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk



of personal injury is high.

- Burn one small pile of material at a time and slowly add to it, this helps to keep the fire from getting out of control.
- Select a burn location away from any utility lines.
- Monitor the wind and be prepared to extinguish quickly.

Fire control tools to have on hand:

- Water supply. This can be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or a garden hose. TEST the water source before igniting the fire, you do not want to find out that the water is off or that the hose is cracked

when you need it.

- Shovels and rakes – you can use dirt to put out a fire.

If the fire gets out of control:

- Call the fire department IMMEDIATELY

People who allow a fire to get out of control, or who conduct illegal burning, may be held liable for the costs of extinguishing the fire in addition to fines or imprisonment (M.G.L. c.48, s.13).

For more safety tips, visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-tips-for-open-burning/download>

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Bear Den to clean up Spindleville Pond

By THERESA KNAPP

The Select Board has unanimously approved a request from Hopedale's Bear Den, part of Hopedale Cub Scout Pack 3401, to clean up the area around Spindleville Pond.

Den leader Justin Paulson told the board at its March 14 meeting that the service project will help the third-graders advance to the next level of scouting.

Paulson said there is usually a good amount of garbage on the bank of the pond in the spring, and the six boys and their families will "pick all the garbage up that we're able to reach safely"

The den will work out details with the town's DPW and will conduct the spring cleanup in the near future.

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Hopedale DECA Makes History Sending 19 To The International Competition In Atlanta

From March 10-12, Hopedale DECA competed in-person at the 63rd Annual Massachusetts State Career Development Conference at the Marriott Copley and Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

Students from around the state worked hard to get to Boston, first qualifying for the event by placing in the top 6 for their events at one of the eight district competitions held throughout the state.

The 3,000 conference participants in Boston and up to 45 competitors per category did not deter Hopedale DECA's 56 competitors as they competed in business areas including finance, marketing, management, hospitality, and entrepreneurship.

One main competitive area in which Hopedale DECA students found success was the project management series of events. For these events, competitors used project management skills to organize real events, like a financial literacy fair, a career fair, and a STEAM-focused educational event for children.

All Hopedale competitors learned and practiced valuable business and interpersonal skills that they will take with them and apply as they progress through their high school and college careers.

Hopedale DECA would like to thank the people who made attending the state conference possible, including our officer team, who worked tirelessly to organize and prepare for the event; DECA members and competitors, who put in an incredible amount of time and effort to study; parents

and guardians who supported their children in this extracurricular success; the 2022 Sponsors of Hopedale DECA, who dramatically reduced costs and



expenses for the event; Consigli Construction, for their generous Platinum level donation; and, of course, our chapter advisor, Talitha Oliveri, who spent hours upon hours tirelessly working to coordinate and execute the state championship.

International Competition - Here We Come

Moving on to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) are 19 Hopedale students bound for Atlanta in April! State Champions competing in Atlanta and members participating in the Emerging Leaders Academy from April 23-27 are as follows:

Project Management Events:
Career Development: Ryan Hayes, Vinny Kaushik, Ahaan Singh

Community Awareness:
Ashleigh Bourgeois, Lauren Montville, Samantha Pannenberg

Sales Project: Caroline Gos-

selin, Ashley MacDonald, Gina Wilke

Individual and Principal Events:

Food Marketing: Joel Bernardes

Principles of Finance: Kyle Maloney

Principles of Hospitality & Tourism: Alexandra Goode

Principles of Marketing: Dylan Whiting

Emerging Leaders Academy:

Thrive - Ultimate Chapters Academy: Sejal Abraham, Madeline Hodgdon

Aspire - Ultimate Graduates Academy: Katharine Hevey, Caroline Hurley, Jason Reed, Kevin Small

To help make the cost of ICDC more manageable, Hopedale DECA is looking for sponsorships and donations from local businesses and individu-

als to offset trip expenses. Please reach out to Talitha Oliveri, advisor, at toliveri@hopedaleschools.org with any questions.

Donations can be mailed to Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin St, Hopedale, MA, 01747 or via UniPay at <https://unipay->

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Overall, you'll learn skills that will decrease your anxiety and stress and can even help you feel better about yourself.

There are six 1.15 hour sessions, followed by one review session about 2 months later. Each session teaches different skills covering topics that including:

- What is Anxiety?
- How does anxiety effect my thoughts and my body?
- How does anxiety effect the way I relate to others?

Dates: Fridays - May 6, 13, 20, 27 and June 3, 10

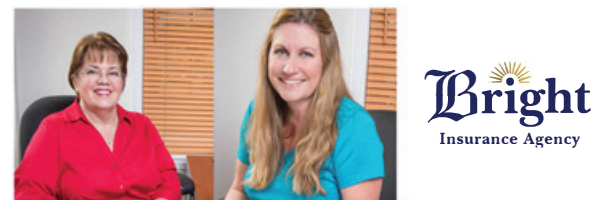
Time: 10:00 am – 11:15 am

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Senate Passes Bills Supporting Equitable Health Care Access for Women

The Massachusetts State Senate passed two bills that would expand equitable health care access for women in Massachusetts. One bill would help to address the crisis in maternal health by ensuring that pregnant and postpartum mothers and birthing people get necessary and potentially life-saving health care by extending MassHealth insurance coverage to 12 months after pregnancy. A second bill would direct the state to provide menstrual products free of cost in certain public places, including schools, correctional facilities,

and shelters and other temporary housing.

“Lack of attention to the health care of women, girls and those who identify as women has posed substantial and potentially life-threatening challenges, but today the Senate is kicking off Women’s History Month by taking steps to rectify this,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “The danger of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is still far too high in the United States, particularly for Black women, but the Senate is committed to continuing our efforts

to ensure pregnant and postpartum mothers and people who give birth receive the critical care they need and deserve. In addition, menstrual products are essential to the health and well-being of women, girls, and people who menstruate. Making them conveniently available in public spaces like schools will result in less stress, a reduced financial burden, and better overall outcomes. I’d like to thank Senators Jehlen and Lovely for their unwavering efforts to bring attention to and address these issues, and to my colleagues throughout the Senate for their support for these bills.”

“The passage of these bills reflects the Senate’s commitment to expanding access to equitable care, urgently addressing maternal health and providing support for those who need it most, ensuring that every mom and baby is afforded the opportunity of a healthy pregnancy and start at life,” said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her steady leadership, to Senators Lovely, Jehlen, and Friedman for their diligent work on this legislation, and to my colleagues in the Senate for voting to support women’s health.”

“Today, the Massachusetts Senate has taken another step to combat inequities in maternal health,” said Senator Joan B. Lovely (D-Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules and the lead sponsor of

legislation related to maternal postpartum care. “By extending postpartum healthcare coverage to a full year, birthing individuals will be able to access vital physical and behavioral health resources that will decrease mortality and severe morbidity and improve the overall health of parent and child, especially for our minority populations. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Senate Ways and Means Chair Rodrigues, and their teams for their partnership and support on expanding maternal healthcare. I also want to thank Senator Jehlen for her work on ensuring menstrual equity. Both bills passed today improve access to key resources in our Commonwealth.”

“That we are considering this bill today is a result of the leadership of so many young people, particularly high school students across the state, from Brookline to Belchertown,” said Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville), the lead sponsor of legislation related to access to menstrual products. “Once you start thinking about it, the need seems obvious. As the menstrual equity coalition says, ‘Non-menstruating people go into a bathroom expecting their basic bodily needs to be met—this is not the case for menstruators.’ This is now being seen as an issue because new generations are saying words out loud that used to be hidden by euphemisms, and they’re talking about needs that were unrecognized because they weren’t named.”

According to a recent re-

port released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of women identified as having died of maternal causes in the United States climbed from 658 in 2018 to 861 in 2020, with the maternal death rate for Black women reaching an alarming 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. Under the maternal health legislation, MassHealth would be directed to provide standard coverage for eligible pregnant and postpartum residents of the Commonwealth for 12 months after the end of the pregnancy. Additionally, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services would be directed to maximize federal financial participation for coverage and benefits of eligible pregnant and postpartum residents. This bill follows last year’s Maternal Health Equity legislation, which was signed into law in January 2021.

The legislation relevant to menstrual products would require primary and secondary schools, temporary housing facilities such as shelters, correctional institutions, jails, and houses of correction to provide safe, disposable menstrual products in a convenient and non-stigmatizing way, at no cost to recipients.

An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products and An Act relative to expanding equitable access to maternal postpartum care now head to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for consideration.

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4 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	5 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	6 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	7 1:00 pm Tai Chi	8 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
11 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:30 am Lunch at Sr. Center 12:30 pm BINGO	12 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	13 9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	14 1:00 pm Tai Chi	15 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
18  CLOSED FOR PATRIOTS' DAY HOLIDAY	19 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	20 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	21 10:00 am Knitters' Group 1:00 pm COA Board Meeting 1:00 pm Tai Chi	22 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance
25 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:30 am Lunch at Sr. Center 12:30 pm BINGO	26 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	27 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	28 1:00 pm Tai Chi	29 10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance

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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 be-



comes 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. 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-assisted 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 re-



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



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John F. Hatch, M.D.



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EYE

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duce 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 with little or no dependence on 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 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 Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the PanOptix and Vivity lens implants. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses, 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! You do not even have to travel to Attleboro! We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. Our surgery center passed certification and accreditation by the most rigorous State and National accreditation agencies. 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

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Senate Passes Oversight Reform for Veterans' Homes

The Massachusetts State Senate passed legislation to increase public oversight over the administration of state-operated veterans' homes in Holyoke and Chelsea. To improve safety and transparency at the veterans' homes, the bill would restructure the chain of command to more closely match established administrative practices used in hospitals and other large organizations. This legislation follows continued scrutiny of administrative failures at the veterans' home in Holyoke, which led to the tragic deaths of 77 veterans during the early days of the pandemic, and builds on recommendations made by the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke COVID-19 Outbreak, which investigated.

"As the daughter of a veteran, I continue to be heartbroken for the families of those who lost their lives to COVID-19 at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I would like to thank the Special Joint Over-

sight Committee on the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke COVID-19 Outbreak for their thorough investigation of this tragedy, as well as my colleagues in the Senate who have remained focused on dramatic and drastic governance reform to our veterans' services to ensure the tragedy that occurred in Holyoke never happens again. The Senate will continue to lead in its efforts to support the brave men and women who have served our country. I want to thank Senator Rush for working for over a decade to confront the issues that affect the treatment of veterans and that impact veterans' services, as well as Senators Rodrigues and Velis for their partnership in crafting this bill."

"With the passage of this bill, the Senate recognizes the need to prioritize accountability and oversight, establish effective checks and balances, and ensure clear chains of command at our state's long-term care facilities for veterans in order to prevent the tragedy at Holyoke Soldiers' Home from ever happening again," said Senator Michael J.

Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her leadership, to Senators Rush and Velis for their tireless efforts in shaping this bill, and to my colleagues in the Senate for their continued commitment to supporting our veterans."

"The Soldiers' Homes have long suffered from gaps in accountability and a confused chain of command, factors which left it unable to deal with a crisis like the one we saw with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Boston), Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs and sponsor of the bill. "The bill passed by the senate today tightens these gaps, enhances the level of oversight by elevating the Secretary of Veterans' Services to a cabinet level position, and creates a stronger governing structure that supports our veterans and provides high quality care. Thank you to Senate President Spilka, Chairman Rodrigues,

and my colleagues in the senate for your continued support of the commonwealth's veterans

"From removing burdensome reporting layers and cleaning up the chain of command, to putting in place important infection control and medical oversight, this legislation builds on a lot of the critical lessons that we learned since the tragic COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in the spring of 2020," said Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield), Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "Those lives lost are the reason this legislation is before us today, to do right by them, and to do right by all the Veterans who will call Massachusetts home in the coming years. I want to thank the Senate President, the Chair of Ways & Means, and Senator Rush for their steadfast leadership on these important reforms and all my colleagues for their consistent support of our Commonwealth's Veterans."

This comprehensive reform bill is designed to increase the

safety of residents of veterans' homes in the Commonwealth. A new, full-time ombudsperson would receive, investigate, and assist in resolving complaints related to the health, wellbeing, and rights of veterans' homes' residents and staff. To effectively aid these efforts, a public hotline would be created for residents and staff to direct concerns. The bill would also task the Department of Public Health (DPH) with regularly inspecting the homes; all inspection reports would be made publicly available, excluding identifying information of patients and staff. Veterans' homes would be required to be licensed as long-term care facilities by DPH and adhere to the same standards and regulations.

Amendments adopted during floor debate will ensure that all veterans' homes are licensed as long-term care facilities; employ both an infection control specialist and an emergency prepared-

REFORM

continued on page 13



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Sports

Hopedale, A Little School Looking to Make It Big on The Track

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER



Last spring the Hopedale boys track team finished 24th as a team in the Central / West Division 2 Outdoor Track Sectionals with Ryan Hayes (2:08.4) finishing twelfth in the 800 as the Blue Raiders top returning individual performer. Jackson Hunt took home seventeenth place in the 2-mile with a time of 11:27.45 and Cam Parker was one-fourth of the 4x4 relay team that finished in 10th place.

As the season begins to get underway for the 2022 campaign, Hopedale is looking to improve upon last year's performance and hopefully has a few more athletes finishing into the higher levels of their events.

Although the season has yet to get underway as of this writing, boys Coach Joe Drugan is not ready to make any predictions however he is optimistic.

"It is still very early so I can't really say how we will do, but I do know that we will be competitive. We are looking pretty good, and the kids are working hard," the Hopedale Coach said. "Last

year we were able to finish third in the DVC (Dual Valley Conference); the harder we work, the better we will become. We've had a lot of kids sign up this year, but who knows what will become of it by the time the season begins."

Drugan went on to say that Hopedale is one of the smallest schools in the area, but is truly blessed with some talent athletes that have the support of their parents.

"Our goal as coaches is to work with what we have and try to get the best out of our student athletes. I can't stress it enough that you need both academics and athletics to succeed in the future," he said. "Covid-19 took a lot of people out of their game, and they need to recover from it; so, we'll see what we get from them this upcoming season."

Sophomore Cam Parker will be looking to follow in his older

brother Will's footsteps and make a name for himself on the track. Parker, who also played basketball and ran cross country for the Blue Raiders, will continue to be part of the Hopedale relay teams while also throwing the shot-put.

Another talented shot-put thrower will be eighth-grader Ari Levine, who is already tossing the shot-put in the 38 -39-foot range.

Ryan Hayes can do just about anything he is asked of according to the Coach. As a mid-distance runner, Drugan is looking to convert him into a hurdler to give the team an aspect they are lacking.

"It shouldn't be an issue (training Hayes to hurdle), Drugan said. "He is a very intellectual runner who picks things up very quickly. Once he gets use to it, he'll be a good one."

Another all-around athlete that the coach is looking to earn the Blue Raiders points will be Matt Marchoni, who will take part in the hurdle, sprints, the long jump, and the triple jump.

Senior Jacob Russell will run the mid-distances while

throwing the javelin; sophomore Jackson Hunt will run the distance events (800, 1-mile, 2-mile) and the trio of sophomore Phillip Carroll, sophomore Alex Carbo and senior James Seaver will also give the team added runners in the distance events. Seaver will also contribute with taking part in the long and triple jump.

In addition to its returners, Drugan will also have a handful of newcomers to the team. Again, he is unsure of what this new talent can give to him and in what event so it's something we'll have to wait to see what they are capable of once the season gets

underway.

"There is still a lot of mystery with this team, but speed and our throwers could be the keys to our success this year," Drugan said. "I don't like to make predictions, but I will tell you this we will be competitive. I know that as I saw the talent that we had during the winter season, and I hope it translate to the spring."

During the winter Hopedale was named DVC co-champions with Nipmuc Regional. It was the second time in the last 16 years where Hopedale was able to capture the title.



For updates on area wrestlers who competed in the State, All-State and New England tournaments, and for basketball and hockey teams that advanced deep into the State Tournament, go to hopedaletownnews.com.

REFORM

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ness specialist; have adequate infection control programs in place; and establish best practices for treating post-traumatic stress disorder. Other adopted amendments direct the Secretary of Veteran's Services to conduct an outreach program on the benefits and application process for the veterans' homes, and require all annual reports from the statewide and regional veterans' homes advisory councils to be publicly accessible online.

State-operated veterans' homes in Massachusetts are managed by a Superintendent, who is responsible for everyday operation of the homes and for ensuring improvements to quality of care. The Senate's legislation would give the authority to appoint a superintendent for each of the Veterans' Homes to the Executive Director of the Office

of Veterans' Homes and Housing (OVHH). Under the legislation, superintendents would be required to fulfill certain criteria, including being a licensed nursing home administrator with experience running a long-term care facility. Priority would also be given to superintendent candidates who are themselves veterans.

The Executive Director of OVHH would be appointed by the Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services, which would be elevated to a cabinet-level position, appointed by the Governor. The Secretary would be required to promulgate regulations concerning the operations and administration of veterans' homes. Elevating the Secretary to a cabinet-level position would facilitate more timely attention to all personnel challenges.

In addition to altering the command structure responsible for managing veterans' homes, the bill would also create a state-

wide Massachusetts Veterans' Homes Advisory Council, tasked with recommending policies to the Secretary of Veterans Services, as well as Regional Councils, which would be tasked with representing the interests of the local community, residents, and family members at each veterans' home. Both the statewide Massachusetts Veterans' Homes Advisory Council and Regional Councils would report annually to the Secretary and to the Legislature. Together with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, these councils would be empowered to submit nominations for and recommend the removal of superintendents.

Furthermore, the bill would require each home to have a full-time specialist in infection control and emergency preparedness and to adhere to medically-sound guidelines for trauma-informed care, including best practices for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and sui-

cide prevention. Additionally, the homes would be required to maintain organizational plans, updated annually, for normal and emergency operations.

The Senate's bill would remove existing procedural hurdles which make it harder to donate operating supplies, clothing, medical equipment, personal hygiene products, and holiday gifts to veterans' homes.

This legislation would set procedures and guidelines for filling vacant positions at veterans' homes, including posting job openings in a timely fashion, and ensuring that an employee is available to temporarily be tasked with any unfulfilled emergency duties while the position is vacant. Additionally, annual performance reviews would be mandated for all leadership positions at each home.

To facilitate veterans' access to health care, state-operated veterans' homes would be required to accept Medicare and Medicaid

payments. The bill would also provide mental health resources to employees of state-operated veterans' homes who worked during the pandemic, and create a commission to rename the Veterans' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke after specific Massachusetts veterans.

Finally, the Senate adopted an amendment from Senator Velis to establish March 21 as Veterans' Homes Remembrance Day, to honor the veterans who lost their lives due to the tragic COVID-19 outbreaks at veterans' homes.

As a version of An Act relative to the governance, structure and care of veterans at the commonwealth's veterans' homes has previously passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve any differences between the Senate and House versions.

Bancroft Memorial Library - April 2022

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747

Contact: Tricia Perry, Library Director
508-634-2209
tperry@cwmar.org

Patriots' Day

The Bancroft Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, April 18 in observance of Patriots' Day.

New Website

Check out our redesigned website at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library/>

Now it is even easier to find out what is happening at the Bancroft Memorial Library.

Peeps Diorama

National Library Week (April 3-9) is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries and promote library use! Pick up a diorama kit (includes a package of Peeps and a plastic shoebox) on April 1st or 2nd. Create a Diorama of Peeps based on anything you can find at the Library (a book, movie, magazine, etc.) and return on April 15th or 16th. We will display the dioramas throughout the Library from April 19-23rd. All ages are encouraged to participate!

Mason Jar Lid Bunny Ornament Take and Make Kit

Get ready to decorate for spring! Pick up a bunny ornament kit the week of April 11. All you need is a glue gun!

April Display Case – Birds!

Oh joy! The snow is melting and spring is in the air! Soon many birds will be making nests in our birdhouses. Would you like to see some beautiful birds right now?? Come to the library! Thanks to Bobbie Elfland, we will have the much-needed color of her bird collection in the display case at the library for the month of April. Just in time for spring! We also have many books about the birds that you might see in the collection here at the library. Please come in, welcome spring, and enjoy the birds!

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. New members are always welcome. If interested in joining the group, please leave your contact information at the Circulation Desk.

The group will meet on Wednesday, April 6 at 1:00 pm to discuss a literary classic, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age on Long Island, near New York City, the novel depicts narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former love, Daisy Buchanan.

Travel with the group to San Francisco on Wednesday, May

4 at 1:00 pm as we discuss *The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner. "April 18, 1906: A massive earthquake rocks San Francisco just before daybreak, igniting a devouring inferno. Lives are lost, lives are shattered, but some rise from the ashes forever changed." –adapted from CWMARS catalog

Wednesday Needlework Group

Join us for an evening of needlework every Wednesday night from 6:00pm until 7:45pm. Bring your latest project. No commitment required – come when you can!

Friends of the Hopedale Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to present NE Nature Talk: Birds in Your Backyard on Wednesday, April 27 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Join us as Joy Marzolf talks about the wide variety of birds that visit the Greater Boston area. Learn about how to attract them, what makes a good backyard habitat, and migration patterns. Come find out about our local birds and occasional visitors. Experience the sights and sounds of some of our most beautiful neighbors. To register for this free program please stop by the library or call 508-634-2209. All ages are welcome.

Southwick's Zoo Tickets!

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a free drawing for a limited number of passes to Southwick's Zoo. To enter the drawing, you must fill out a form in person at the Library.

The Friends will be drawing 25 names, and each will receive two free passes to Southwick's Zoo. Entries will be accepted from April 1 - April 14, with the drawing held Friday, April 15th. There is one entry per family/per address. If your entry is selected, you will receive a phone call from a member of the Friends of the Library on April 15. Passes will be held at the circulation desk for pick up.

Bancroft Memorial Library's Museum Pass Program

The Museum Pass Program is made possible through the support and generosity of the Friends of the Hopedale Library and The Hopedale Foundation and provides additional options for free or discounted admission to a number of other area attractions, including Massachusetts State Parks, Ecotarium, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, and the USS Constitution Museum. Hopedale residents can also reserve passes to the New England Aquarium and the Museum of Science (These two passes are provided by The Hopedale Foundation and are limited to Hopedale residents only.) Passes can be reserved up to 30 days in advance. For reservations, visit the Library's website at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/services/collections-and-resources/pages/museum-passes-available> or contact Library Staff at 508-634-2209.

Are you interested in joining The Friends of the Hopedale Library?

The Friends meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! 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/services/collections-and-resources/pages/museum-passes-available>

HEY HOPEDALE!
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

That's right,
Hopedale Town News
has its own Facebook page!

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

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And as always, find us online at hopedaletownnews.com

LIBRARY

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www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library/pages/friends-library.

NEWS FROM THE MARJORIE HATTERSLEY CHILDREN'S ROOM

Welcome Spring!

Join us on Saturday, April 2 from 11am-12pm for a spring story and a very special craft, a mini birdhouse decoration. For ages 5 and up, please register with Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209. Thank you to Mary Alice Gruppi for donating the mini birdhouses!

Spring Story Hours

Listen to stories, sing songs, and make a craft with Mrs. Kraimer on Tuesdays at 3:15pm on April 5 and 12. This program is for ages 3 and up. Please contact Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register.

April StoryWalk®

The Bancroft Memorial Li-

brary is pleased to present a special StoryWalk® featuring I Took the Moon for a Walk by Carolyn Curtis. The April StoryWalk® will be located on the Hopedale Community House Lawn from April 11-23. Share the story as you walk along the path!

Special Storytime with Author Carolyn Curtis

Enjoy a special Storytime and craft featuring Carolyn Curtis, author of I Took the Moon for a Walk, the featured book in our April StoryWalk®. The program will be held in the Library's Program Room on Tuesday, April 19 at 3pm. Registration is required. Please call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hopedale Library. Ages 3 and up.

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at www.wowbrary.org to discover the Library's newest books, movies and music. The library webpage is hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library

Hopedale Cultural Council Seeks New Members

The Hopedale Cultural Council is a group of volunteers appointed by the Select Board. We award grants annually through the Massachusetts Cultural Council to qualified applicants for community projects and events. Some of the past recipients have been the Bancroft Memorial Library, the Council on Aging, the Hopedale School System, and other organizations in the Blackstone Valley area.

We also sponsor the summer

band concerts, the December Student Art Show, and our biggest event, the annual Day in the Park. In order to continue to provide these programs in our town we need more help. Some of our activities are in jeopardy if we don't have more volunteers to serve on the council.

We meet a few times a year for planning purposes. Members work on projects on their own time and are present at our events. Please see our Facebook

page (Hopedale Cultural Council- Community Organization) for photos and videos of our past activities.

Current members are: Ellen Murphy, Treasurer, Sally Decelles, Secretary and Grant Coordinator, Kelly O'Malley, Jean Hill, Linda MacEwen, and Ann Labrode.

For more information contact: Billi Manning, Chairperson 508-478-0929

Hopedale Cultural Council Awards Grants 2021-2022

The Hopedale Cultural Council recently awarded \$6000 in grants through an allocation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The recipients of this year's awards:

- Greater Milford Ballet
- Linda Hixon- Hopedale History

Blackstone Valley Community Chorus

Patrick Smith- Afternoon of Brass

Claflin Hill Music Performance Foundation

Friends of the Hopedale Library

Birch Alley Brass Ensemble

Davis Bates- Performance

Bold and Beautiful Teen Exhibition and Scholarship

Aerodynamics STEM workshop

Gregory Maichack- Pastel Workshop

Blackstone Valley Technical High School- Multicultural Festival

MEMORY TRAINING

CLASSES AT THE HOPEDALE SR. CENTER

May 9, 16, 23 & June 6

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

What is Memory Training?

Memory Training is a 4-session course teaching memory enhancing techniques.

What Will You Learn in Class?

- What memory is and how it works
- How to reduce tip of tongue moments
- How to reduce your memory burden
- Your learning style
- Better memory habits
- Strategies & techniques for some of the most common memory complaints
- How to remember names and faces
- How to remember where you put things

9 out of 10 participants report improvements in their memory! These classes were developed by the UCLA Longevity Center. *Classes are free, informative and fun.*

Sign-up is required by **May 2, 2022.**

Call (508)634-2208.



Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
3/10/2022	177 Laurelwood Drive	\$421,000
3/07/2022	215 Dutcher Street	\$329,000
3/04/2022	108 Freedom Street	\$312,000
3/04/2022	31 Daniels Street	\$485,000
2/09/2022	23 Bens Way	\$550,000

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



Jack Broderick
Realtor, ABR



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Fax: 508-478-0664

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Sponsor your hometown news sources and receive permanent placement on your chosen town site for 12 months! Tie in your corporate profile, company branding and social media feed into one neat place and reach your target audience with our local service directory. We also include Sponsored Content and Digital Advertising year round. No better way of keeping your company branding top of mind throughout the year!

When you book your Community Sponsorship Package,
your business will receive the following:

- Prominent homepage presence for 12 months.
- Corporate Profile in Local Town Pages business directory.
 - 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 Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at sue@sodellconsult.com **Only 10 available per site!** They will go quick!*

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