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Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

July 2022

Bellingham Memorial School Worker Lynch Recognized for Saving Boy's Life

By J.D. O'GARA

"I was scared. I was just thinking like, what am I going to do?"

Those are the words of Colin Mooney, who will start 6th grade in at Bellingham Memorial Middle School in the fall. Things might have been different, had it not been for Mrs. Tina Lynch, who was working in the Bellingham Middle School cafeteria on May 12th, when Colin choked on his chicken patty while chatting with his friends.

The middle-schooler understood what was happening to him, and he had the sense to tap Mrs. Lynch on the shoulder. "I pointed to my throat," he says, "She said, 'Oh my god!' and she told the lunch lady next to her and asked her what to do and brought me to the back of the cafeteria and



Shown is Mrs. Tina Lynch, left, with a very grateful student, Colin Mooney, right. Lynch sprang into action at Bellingham Middle School cafeteria on May 12th, saving Colin from choking.

did the Heimlich twice, and she got it out." Colin adds that his friends told him they saw his face turn color.

"Colin is alive today because of her!" exclaims Colin's Mom, Christine. "Obviously, it's terrifying – you don't send your kid to school expecting anything like that to happen. I'm just so grateful to her. I think she deserves all the praise and recognition. She acted without thinking and did what she was trained to do. You never think you're going to use it. She's a hero!"

Fate, it seems, might have had a little bit to do with Colin's good fortune.

"(Mrs. Lynch) said she doesn't normally work at the middle school – she was cover-

LIFE SAVER

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Cruise Night Offers Camaraderie, Reminiscence



Car owner Vinnie Gamble points out special items under the hood of his 1988 Camaro to Ethan Dunbar who owns a 1967 Plymouth Fury.

"Cruise Night" at the VFW in Bellingham is about more than just old cars.

On Monday evenings at 5 p.m., car enthusiasts display their carefully-cared-for autos for friends, families, and strangers to admire. Many of the cars are from the 1960's and were driven around to the sounds of "Fun, Fun, Fun" by the Beach Boys, "Little Old Lady from Pasadena"

by Jan and Dean, and, of course, "Drive My Car" by the Beatles.

"I'm here for the old memories," explains Jack Scavitto who attended a recent Cruise Night at the VFW. "Back in the 1960's, I owned a Malibu Super Sport and a 442 Olds." He now owns a 2014 Camaro SS.

CRUISE

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Happy 4th of July!

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LIFE SAVER

continued from page 1

ing because they were short that day, and she doesn't normally work the register, she works in back. The stars were aligned," says Christine.

Mrs. Lynch was recognized by an email sent out to parents by Memorial School principal David S. Cutler on the day the incident took place. Cutler expressed his gratitude for "the swift response and calm and cool action of one of our amazing cafeteria staff, Mrs. Tina Lynch," adding, "May 6th was National Lunch Hero Day, and Mrs. Lynch has truly taken that to a whole new level. On behalf of EVERYONE at Bellingham Memorial School, THANK YOU!"

Mr. Cutler also recognized Tina Lynch for her life-saving action at a subsequent school committee meeting "She's just so humble and so modest, but what she did was huge, it really was," says Christine.

Dear Families,

Today during 5th-grade lunch, one of the students began to choke and signaled that they were in distress. Thanks to the swift response and calm and cool action of one of our amazing cafeteria staff, Mrs. Tina Lynch; she immediately intervened and administered the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food and saving the student's life.

Beyond our tremendous gratitude to Mrs. Lynch for her professionalism and quick action, I wanted to let everyone know in the event that your student came home upset about what they may have witnessed during this traumatic event.

May 6th was National Lunch Hero Day and Mrs. Lynch has truly taken that to a whole new level. On behalf of EVERYONE at Bellingham Memorial School, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
David S. Cutler
Principal



Forty people and 20 cars were at a recent Cruise Night at the Bellingham VFW. On a typical Monday evening, there are 15-30 cars for visitors to see.

CRUISE

continued from page 1

"It's fun," says VFW post commander Tom Lane. "You get to meet new people, look at all the different cars, and I greet and thank everyone of them! They love the great interaction between car owners."

The Bellingham Cruise Night debuted on June 18, 2021, just as the COVID pandemic was lessening. "Starting this was part of getting our VFW post back to normal," recalls Lane. Anyone can attend, and there is no admission charge. Bring the old car you love, or just walk around and see lots of cool old cars that everybody loves.

"I like cars," says Rob Hastings who owns and proudly displays his shiny, black 2000 Chevrolet Camaro SS convertible. "We get to talk with car people, hang out with them... everybody here works on their cars."

And while they're hangin' out and talking, they purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, and cold drinks from the VFW. Says Lane, "We do a lot of our business on Cruise Nights." Proceeds go to help local vets.

Vinnie Gamble, who owns a 1988 Chevy Camaro IROC, echoes Lane. "I'm here to support vets, have a cold beer, and talk with some good people."

For Ethan Dunbar (your reporter's son), it's about "cama-

raderie with the guys, making contacts, and getting creative ideas for improving your car." His is a 1967 Plymouth Sport Fury 3.

Wally Power is a regular at Cruise Night. He has a 1966 Dodge Charger that's "almost all original and it was the first model made." He has had it for 11 years. Power likes to show his Charger and goes to up to four car shows every week.

And there are lots of shows around at locations including Patriot Place, Cumberland Stop & Shop, the Upton VFW, and in Blackstone. NE Cruise Nights and Events has lots of listings and you can check them all out at www.facebook.com/groups/NECNE

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July 6th Begins Concerts on the Grass

By DAVID DUNBAR

“Concerts on the Grass” begins its annual run in Bellingham with a performance on July 6th, followed by the three Wednesday thereafter.

The concerts, which also run in Mendon, are organized and performers paid by ABMI – Access Bellingham-Mendon Inc. and can be seen on Cable 8 in Bellingham.

Started in the 1990’s, “The series was going when I arrived at the station in 2000,” says Steve Saraceno, “and it’s my job to keep it going.” He’s the publicity director. “It has been quite a run!”

“The concert series has become a summertime fixture in Bellingham,” says Town Clerk Lawrence Sposato, “giving residents the opportunity to relax and enjoy musical and other types of entertainment under the open skies. At the same time, the concerts allow for the showcasing of local talents.”



Entertainment on Wednesday evenings is provided by a variety of bands and this one is the Jesse Liam Band.

Here’s the schedule:

- **July 6, 6 p.m.** – Kids Night with Wayne Potash and Trevor the Games Man. (No pony rides tonight).
- **July 13, 6 p.m.** – Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Morse Code (classic rock). Opening Act: The Wild Beyond (classic rock).
- **July 20, 6 p.m.** – Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Vinyl Echo (80’s rock).
- **July 27, 6 p.m.** – Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Jesse Liam Band (contemporary rock).

“We tape each concert,” explains Saraceno, “and will re-broadcast the Wednesday show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.” The archives section of the website contains concerts from the past and you can check them all out at www.ABMI8.org

ABMI invites local companies to sponsor a concert; the Town Common Trustees often sponsor the first event. “Concerts on the Grass” is open to all and is free.

“We hope kids will come out for a free pony ride,” says Saraceno, “and everybody can enjoy an evening of music outdoors.”



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How about some FREE yoga on the beach? Instructor Holy Davenport is leading one-hour classes on Thursdays at 8 a.m. beginning July 7 through September 9 at Bellingham’s Silver Lake. Parking passes are \$10 for town residents and available at the Department of Public Works.

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Great Local Summer Hikes near Bellingham and Franklin

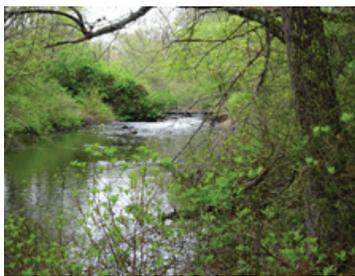
BY MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN

For readers looking for the most challenging hikes, the state forests nearby in Franklin (off Grove Street), Foxborough, (F. Gilbert. Hills off Thurston Street), Upton (off Westboro Road), and Wrentham (off Taunton Street) all offer challenging hiking on multiple, often unmarked trails. Expect to find rugged trail surfaces, lots of rocks and roots, but very few if any real views.

If you are looking for Easy Walks, you can head over to Panther Way, next to the Franklin Police Station, (and behind Franklin

High School). There you'll find a handicapped accessible sculpture park that takes visitors around a small dammed pond, the former site of Franklin's town pool. This area was closed for swimming in the 1970s, and restored around 2014 to its present outdoor use, featuring multiple sculptures. Another great Franklin outdoor option is Delcarte Conservation Area off Pleasant Street. Enjoy a loop trail around the large pond. The trail has some roots and is narrow. Beware of poison ivy! If you visit in the early morning you may be lucky enough to see a variety of wildlife.

The Southern New England



Charles River, Bellingham



Shown at Delcarte Conservation area in Franklin is, L-R Anna, Nicole and David Rogers of Bellingham.

Trunkline Trail (SNETT) presently has three local entrances with parking. Parking is available in Franklin on Grove Street. Bellingham offering parking on Lake Street and is relatively handicapped accessible (the slope from the street may be challenging for some). The SNETT headed back toward Franklin from Lake Street is packed stone dust up to the Pleasant Street tunnel (and tunnels are always fun!). The SNETT entrance at Center Street in Bellingham is handicapped accessible. Take care when crossing Center Street, which has a 45 MPH speed limit. No motorized vehicles permitted.

Another enjoyable half-mile walk in Bellingham will get

you to the banks of the Charles River. Parking is at the High Street fields. The trail head is at the back of the field. The path has become rockier lately because of dirt bikes on the trails, but the sight of the Charles River, still a small stream at this spot, is worth the relatively small effort to avoid the rocks. Pay attention to the red arrows that lead to the water. Multiple additional trails will lead you into

swampy areas. Bring (and use!) bug spray.

My favorite local spot to get a view is at the Knuckup Hill property (also known as Sweatt Hill) in Wrentham. Parking is at the Wrentham Senior Center on Taunton Street, or next to the trail head near the Building Services Department offices. From

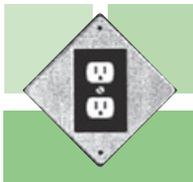
HIKES

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Once David Letterman had frequent guest and a favorite musician of his, Warren Zevon, on for an entire show. Zevon, who'd disclosed terminal cancer, performed and interviewed throughout. Dave at one point asked, "Anything you know now, that I should know?" to which Zevon wittily deadpanned, "Enjoy every sandwich."

Those raising children and helping aging parents often feel rushed and are distracted thinking about what's next, overlooking the beauty of daily, mundane moments.

July is National Sandwich Generation Month, celebrating a generation of people sandwiched between caring for their young children and aging parents at the same time.

I'm a Sandwicher, as are approximately 15% of Americans between ages 40-60 who face the challenges of planning, communicating and executing for 3 generations at once.

In 2018, my parents were struggling with health to remain independent in NH after 60 years in their home. Stress raised on my

mom as a caregiver and daily living/house routines began to slide. My wife, our daughters (then 5 & 3) and I lived comfortably in our Ashland home. The adults agreed on a Plan B supported by updated financial planning. Sell both homes, buy a new home for 3 generations and live as one household sharing in daily responsibilities.

The urgency was greater than anticipated and not without challenges since our move to Holliston, here's some antidotes for Sandwichers:

Small talks instead of "The Talk." Families don't like to think about declining health and elder care, let alone discuss it. I used single topics tied to a recent story about a friend, asking what they would do. Gained small agreements, the changed topics as would address others another day to frame a mutual plan.

Bring in outside mediators. My aunt shared with my mom that time is not your friend. She encouraged the positives to take action now, rather than later when fewer options are available. Additionally, we consulted with

an elder care attorney on understanding MA Health options, current trusts, POAs and proxies before making the move.

Your spouse's support is critical. Incredibly fortunate to have a spouse that pushed me to see the positives and embraces bringing family in as "you'd want your daughters to treat you the same someday."

Through the eyes of a child. It's not all about you, the girls show the love and benefits of learning by being around grandma and grandpa. And vice versa, as health has improved so has activity as the girls provide motivation and energy.

Sometimes timing is everything. I couldn't imagine the anxiety and ill-advised actions my parents would have faced on their own these past 2-plus years.

Your parents sacrificed many things to make sure you had it better, including concealing issues to not worry you. Be open with communication and embrace change, the best ways to prevent costly unintended consequences and ensure positive lasting memories.



Fathers Day 2022

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.

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Rep. Soter Supports Governor's Veto to Prevent Undocumented Immigrants from Obtaining Mass. Driver's License

State Representative Michael J. Soter (R-Bellingham) recently voted to sustain Governor Charlie Baker's veto of legislation that would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license.

In voting to support the Governor's veto, Representative Soter cited concerns about the fairness of the underlying bill and questioned whether sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent individuals who cannot provide proof of lawful residence from using a driver's license to register to vote. Despite his objections, the House of Representatives voted 119-36 to override the Governor's veto on June 8.

The Senate is expected to take up the Governor's veto on June 9. If the override is successful, the bill will become law without Governor Baker's signature and will take effect on July 1, 2023.

House Bill 4470, *An Act relative to work and family mobility*, was ini-

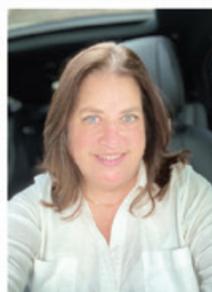
tially approved by the House of Representatives on February 16 by a vote of 120-36, with Representative Soter opposed. The Senate passed its own version of the bill - Senate Bill 2872 - on May 5 by a vote of 32-8.

A conference committee appointed to reconcile the differences between the two bills worked quickly to finalize a compromise bill, House Bill 4805, which was opposed by the two Republican conferees, Representative Steven Xiarhos (R-Barnstable) and Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Webster).

Under the bill, individuals who cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the United States will now be able to obtain a non-REAL ID compliant Massachusetts driver's license if they can produce sufficient documentation to verify their identity

LICENSE

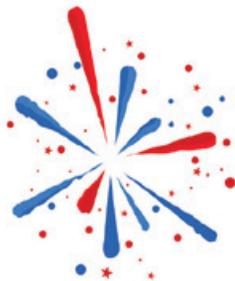
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Bellingham, YMCA Enhance Activities at Silver Lake

Municipal Spotlight

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

The town of Bellingham and the Hockomock Area YMCA of Franklin are a terrific example of reciprocity and how it should work.

Webster's Dictionary defines reciprocity as "a mutual or cooperative interchange of favors." That would lead to a reciprocal relationship, and that's what began at Silver Lake Beach on June 18 and will continue until Labor Day weekend.

The Franklin branch of the YMCA is providing lifeguards at Silver Lake Beach (on Cross Street in Bellingham) at no cost to the town. Bellingham, however, will allow the YMCA to conduct swimming lessons (for children six months old to age 12) at the beach and to also run a summer camp for youth, which includes boating, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing and swimming. The camp, which got underway on June 20, will continue until Aug. 19 and the

hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. But, parents can opt for a longer available time frame.

There is a fee for the swimming lessons and also for the camp. The swim lesson schedule and information on the costs are available on the town's website (Bellinghamma.org).

Town Administrator Denis Fraine, who initiated the agreement with the YMCA 10 years ago in 2012, says the town saves significant money by having the YMCA provide lifeguards, who can earn as much as \$20 per hour. "The town isn't in business to manage a waterfront but the YMCA is," he emphasized. "That's a huge benefit for the town."

Lifeguards are on duty at Silver Lake from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until Labor Day. A minimum of two lifeguards will oversee beach activity but that number would increase to as many as five, if needed. The beach is open beyond Labor Day but no lifeguards will be present.

Scott Martin, the executive director of the Franklin branch of the YMCA, deals with the orga-



Scott Martin is the executive director of the Hockomock Y's Franklin branch.

nization's day-to-day operations and community relations.

"Bellingham is in our service area and that gives us an opportunity to make the program more convenient," Martin said. "Silver Lake is a unique location that really can't be replicated. It's a win-win arrangement for us and for the town."

Martin also emphasizes that enrollment for the swimming lessons or the summer camp is open throughout the summer. "And, we don't turn anyone away if the fee is a financial problem," he said. "We work with families if there's difficulty by offering a scholarship process for those that need financial help."



Silver Lake is an enjoyable setting for children to sharpen their paddle-boarding skills.

Fraine notes that the partnership with the YMCA "isn't just about getting qualified lifeguards, it's also about providing programs for families." He adds that parents and families can also enjoy the splash park for toddlers and the playground area at Silver Lake.

Fraine said that the arrangement with the YMCA gives the town the ability to keep the annual fee at \$10 for residents to go to Silver Lake. The fee enables the town to deal with costs like testing the water quality and emptying trash and garbage.

Martin points to another plus the YMCA offers Bellingham families — before and after school programs. "Parents can drop off their children as early as 7 a.m. and pick them up by 6 p.m.," he said. "The programs are offered at the Stallbrook and DiPietro elementary schools and also at the Middle School."

Martin, who resides in Franklin, has been employed by the

YMCA for 10 years. He's a native of Dartmouth, attended Dartmouth High School and graduated from UMass-Amherst, majoring in communications.

Commenting on the YMCA's active role at Silver Lake this summer, Martin said: "Silver Lake is a New England experience. Our lifeguards take pride working there and they notice how clean the area is. Our team is a talented group that loves what they do and we're pleased with the agreement we have with Bellingham."

When Fraine was asked if Bellingham's reciprocal arrangement with the YMCA will continue for the foreseeable future, he had a one-word answer. "Yes."

And, why not? Especially when it benefits both and it's been a winning formula for a decade.

For more information on the Hockomock Area YMCA's programs, go to Hockymca.org.

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Proponents of the bill say it will improve public safety by encouraging undocumented immigrants to undergo driver training and to insure their motor vehicles.

Representative Soter previously supported an alternative proposal, filed by Representative Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk), that

would instead allow undocumented residents to apply for a state-issued "driver privilege card" (DPC) to legally operate a motor vehicle in Massachusetts, but the amendment was defeated.

Representative Soter also objected to language in the bill that prohibits the Registrar of Motor Vehicles from disclosing or making public record any personally identifying information provided by an applicant, unless required by federal law or authorized through regulations that will be developed by the attorney general. He previously supported a pair of amendments that would have required the Registrar to provide information on an applicant under specific circumstances, including to a city or town clerk seeking to verify the identity and eligibility of any individual using a Massachusetts license to vote or to register to vote, or to a state law enforcement agency requesting information pursuant to an investigation. Both amendments were defeated on votes of 31-125.

HIKES

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there a fire road curves around the hill to the high point, next to the abandoned ski tow equipment. It is a bit of a climb! Look northeast to take in an impressive view of the area. You can see the buildings of downtown Boston, but you may need binoculars. An additional walk right next to Knuckup Hill is Trout pond, a pretty walk, especially in the fall.

Our family enjoys getting over to Medway, where Choate Park offers plentiful parking, an accessible playground for children and a handicapped friendly path around the pond. When facing the pond from the street, look to the left, where a wide, clear, mostly level trail offers sound footing. The path meanders through woodland, goes past the back of Medway High School and continues beyond Adams Street. The trail club in Medway is working to expand this path all the way to Holliston.

Besides the SNETT, area residents have access to two other great local rail trails. The Upper Charles Trail reaches from Mil-

ford, at the Hopkinton Town Line off Rt. 85, south to downtown Milford, then back north to Holliston. All trail surfaces are paved or packed stone dust and are great for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized uses. The Blackstone Bikeway starts in Woonsocket and heads south alongside the Blackstone River from Woonsocket, RI to Central Falls. Another portion of the bikeway, not yet linked to Woonsocket, is in Blackstone off Canal Street. This trail also follows the river and reaches from Blackstone to Uxbridge. It is paved and completely handicapped accessible.

This is just a short list of possible outdoor trails you can enjoy locally. We live in a beautiful part

of the country. Travel is a great way to open our minds, but don't overlook outdoor spaces right in your own back yard. Happy trails!

Marjorie Turner Hollman, a Bellingham resident, has been freelance-writing for Local Town Pages and The Bellingham Bulletin for many years. Nearly 30 years ago, Marjorie found herself in a hospital bed after brain surgery to save her life, paralyzed on her right side. The years since then have been a healing journey as she has regained her ability to walk, with support. Little did she know those years ago that one day she would be the author of five Easy Walks walking books focused on helping others, including those with mobility issues, to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

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Young Artisan Explores Hobby, Forges a Vocation

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Nick Riolo might be just 18 years old, but he’s an old soul

as well as an artisan. The self-taught young blacksmith takes pride in his art, creating the tools

he needs to craft iron into functional, beautiful and historically accurate specimens.

“It all started just over three years ago,” says Riolo, a recent graduate of Norfolk Aggie (Norfolk County Agricultural School, “I was looking at bush craft, outdoor survival and stuff, just going out in the woods with nothing just a couple tools. I found it fascinating, using minimal tooling and building things, and I’d seen a video where this guy was using a tool called a draw knife, where you strip the bark off wood. It was a nice little folding tool, and he did a lot with it. I looked at some videos of how to make one and tumbled into this world of blacksmithing and toolmaking.”

Riolo dove into instructional videos on YouTube, joined Facebook groups, found books on the subject to teach himself and even got some tips from Axe and Anvil Handworks, of Tennessee. He “got so busy making other stuff, all kinds of things,” he laughs, “but I never actually made a drawknife.”

Instead, he embarked upon a new trade, taking pride in em-



18-year-old Nick Riolo, of Bellingham, will head to Hampshire College this fall, studying horticulture and teaching his unique form of Colonial-era blacksmithing for college credit.

ploying old-time handwork.

“I took the more do-it-yourself traditional approach,” says Nick, “I wanted to use coal instead of propane forges and focus on the old skills and equipment. I really appreciate the history,” says Riolo, “A lot of people don’t use that stuff, and it dies out.”

Riolo spends a lot of time researching “a lot of ancient arts and crafts, especially colonial life – mainly 18th century living, old recipes and stuff, everything from candle- and soap-making to black powder.” His focus is on American colonial culinary equipment, and he’s made fire pokers, grilling skewers, trivets, gridirons and more, all which is customizable.

continued on page 9

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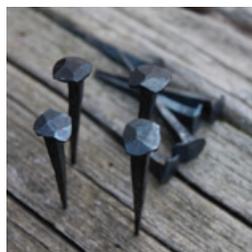
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These nails and this wized-head are some of Riolo's favorite creations. Nails, he says, are difficult to do well, and he had to forge several tools to create the wized head.



power of a wire nail, if you want strength, those are the way to go, and they're decorative. You can do all sorts of different styles. I do a rose head, a very simple but beautiful design, based off

historical examples." Nick's hand-made nails can also be used for historical reproduction, and he takes a lot of time to get them right. "I want to make sure I'm making something that could have been made in that time period," he says.

Another favorite item Nick has crafted is a wizard head he deems his most interesting and challenging sculpture. "It was really fun to make, and it came out exactly how I needed it to. Along the way, I had to make several tools to get the different features on the face," he explains.

Nick created his first and second forge, explaining that for production work now, he uses a 55-gallon oil drum with a brake rotor, with miscellaneous iron plumbing, "and a hairdryer, es-

entially." He's looking to replace the latter with an antique electric blower. "That's all you need," says the blacksmith, "You can have the bare minimum. Anybody can do this, it's just a matter of building your inventory of tooling, and then making more tools so you can get better at making other things. I'm still in that process of building a shop and setting up my equipment. The last three years, I've collected and made a lot of stuff. Most I can't use yet - I have to have that shop set up."

That shop, right now, is a harbor freight tent in his parents' Bellingham back yard. "My Mom and Dad and my Stepdad, all my family has been super supportive. It's been a journey, and it still is ongoing. I appreciate everyone who's helped me," says Nick.

A shop will have to be put on hold, as Riolo will head to Hampshire College in the fall, with a major in horticulture.

"They do have a little blacksmith shop, more like a fabrication shop. I'm going in with a very special focus that requires a different tooling," says Nick, who will have flexibility to teach his craft and receive college credit.

"And I'm definitely taking American History and will possibly minor in some sort of history."

Ultimately, Nick hopes to help keep this historical niche alive.

"You're successful if you get one person to talk about it, one person that can tell somebody else and they tell somebody else," says Riolo. Conversely, he says, in the olden days, "You had secrecy in your trade, a tight-knit community where everyone didn't share information, because that

was your livelihood and you had one or two apprentices," although in some areas, blacksmiths are still making tools people need.

Nick has created a website for himself, www.rioloironandleather.com, and you can visit his Facebook page "Riolo Iron and Leather," to follow along his fascinating journey of new techniques, trials and errors in the world of colonial iron work.

When asked if he'd identify himself as an artist, Riolo answers, "Definitely. A blacksmith is a sculptor of steel as is a sculptor clay."

What is he most proud of making? Nails.

"As funny as it sounds, it was the most challenging thing for me, and it pays off in the end. Anybody can make a nail, but it takes a lot of patience and practice to make a good one. There are several different styles of tooling to make them well," says Nick, who created a nail header to do that work. "A lot of people doing woodworking want a quality nail. With a rectangular nail, that has four times the holding

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Volunteers Put in Greenhouse Foundation, Shed at Bellingham Community Garden

By J.D. O'GARA

On Saturday, June 11th, members of the Bellingham Community Garden and Garden Club of Bellingham, MA, with help from RJD Construction, braved some hot sun and erected a new shed and laid the foundation for a new greenhouse on site at the Bellingham Community Garden

on Center Street. The volunteers used funds from the Food Infrastructure Grant received this year. The greenhouse will soon be completed for seedling cultivation and to extend the growing season. The group, in fact, purchased an air bender to bend the pipes for the greenhouse, which was a less expensive option than purchasing pre-bend rods.



Volunteers work together to install the new shed.



Thanks to a Food Infrastructure Grant received earlier this year, the Bellingham Community Garden will now house a greenhouse, with rods bent by its own volunteers.

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“We are looking forward to seeing what the Town of Bellingham does with the grant funds on the Farmstand for the market this year,” said Micky DeFosses, Bellingham Community Garden manager.



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Local Spots to Splash Into this Summer

By ASHLEY KAZIJIAN

Silver Lake Park (Bellingham)

95 Cross St, Bellingham, MA 02019
Parks' Commission: (508) 883 1606

The Park is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. or dark, whichever comes first. A parking pass is required and can be obtained online at the town website (bellinghamma.org). The 2022 parking pass rates are as follows: Day Pass: \$7, Residential Season Pass: \$10, and Non- Residential Season Pass: \$60. The gate to the park is locked nightly and on July 4th, the Gate will be locked at 4 p.m. The park has a splash pad open daily from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Lifeguards are on duty from late June through Labor Day. When there is no lifeguard on duty, swimming is at one's own risk. Portable restrooms are available on site from June-August. There are no open flame beach fires for cooking allowed, no alcohol, no dogs, and no smoking. Fishing and boating are permitted with restrictions. Please visit the town website for a full description of park rules and regulations.

Casey Pool (Milford)

41 Prospect Street, Milford MA 01757

(508) 473 5998

The Casey Memorial Swimming Pool opened for the season on June 25th and will be open daily from 11:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. There is a designated parking area on site. On site facilities include showers, restrooms, and lockers. There is a lifeguard on duty at all times. Swim lessons are available and there is an outdoor swimming pool lift available for accessibility needs. Alcohol and glass containers are prohibited. For the full list of rules and regulations, please call the number above.

Arcand Park (Bellingham)

Located on Lake Street behind Lake Street Auto, Bellingham MA 02019

Parks' Commission: (508) 883 1606

The park is open June through October daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. or dark, whichever comes first. A parking pass is required and can be obtained

online at the town website (bellinghamma.org). The 2022 parking pass rates are as follows: Day Pass: \$7, Residential Season Pass: \$10, and Non- Residential Season Pass: \$60. The gate to the park is locked nightly. There is no lifeguard on duty at any time throughout the open season. Portable restrooms are available on site from June-August. There are no open flame beach fires for cooking allowed, no alcohol, no dogs, and no smoking. Fishing and boating are permitted with

restrictions. Please visit the town website for a full description of park rules and regulations.

Bernon Family Branch YMCA (Franklin)

45 Forge Hill Road, Franklin MA 02038

(508) 528 8708

Many program and membership options are offered at our local YMCA branch. The Bernon Family Branch has both an indoor pool and an outside pool

that opens for the season on June 18th. There are many different memberships available depending on age and household size. For information on registration fees and monthly rates, please contact the YMCA at the number listed above. Those interested in joining may be eligible to participate in current promotions (this month you can join for \$1 and pay nothing until July by using the promo code "JUNEFREE22" when signing up online or at the branch) or for financial assistance.

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On Friday, June 3rd, the class of 2022 attended their annual all-night party, Operation Graduation, at the Bellingham High School. The theme of this year's party was "Through the Years" and provided the graduates with a walk down memory lane. The event was planned and hosted by many senior parents that volunteered their time and resources to making this year's event a huge success. The goal of the event remains keeping our senior graduates safe while having an amazing time together for one last night after graduation. The Operation Graduation Committee cannot express enough, our sincere appreciation to the parents, families, Bellingham School Administration and local businesses that donated their time, resources and talents from the start. This year long endeavor, to provide a safe and fun night, began in October of 2021 with fundraising and ended with perfect execution leading to smiling faces and lasting memories.

We would like to extend a very special *Thank You* to the following;

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Bellingham Senior Center Concert Draws Young and Old Alike

By MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN

Mark Mandeville and Rai-
anne Richards brought their entire band with them to a concert at the Bellingham Sr. Center. Threat of rain brought everyone

indoors, where about 40 Bellingham residents, young and old, enjoyed their original tunes. "This program was supported in part by the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency which is

supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

From L-R, Doug Williamson, Rai-
anne Richards, Mark Mandeville, Peter Hart

House and Senate Agree on \$350M Municipal Transportation Infrastructure Bond Authorization

State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) is pleased to announce that the House and Senate have reached an agreement on a \$350 million bond bill to assist cities and towns with their local transportation infrastructure needs.

House Bill 4638, *An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges*, will provide communities with \$200 million to help maintain local roads and bridges under the state's Chapter 90 program for Fiscal Year 2023. The bill also includes \$150 million in additional funding for several

transportation-related municipal grant programs. With this passage, the towns of the 8th Worcester District will receive the following amounts:

- Uxbridge - \$507,192
- Millville - \$107,710
- Blackstone - \$229,181
- Bellingham - \$539,513

The bond bill was enacted by the House on a vote of 155-0 on June 16 and by the Senate on a vote of 38-0 the same day. At press time, it stood before Governor Charlie Baker for his review and signature.

"I'm thrilled to bring this funding back to the 8th Worcester District," commented State Representative Michael J. Soter. "Chapter 90 funding is crucial to each of the communities in the 8th Worcester District and serves to make an impactful difference to each town's infrastructure."

Representative Soter said that in addition to the Chapter 90 funding, the House and Senate have approved funding increases for five state grant programs that communities can apply to for additional transportation assistance. House Bill 4638 provides for:

- a \$40 million increase for the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repair and improvement of pavement and surface conditions on non-federally aided roadways;
- a \$30 million increase in the municipal small bridge program, which supports the design, engineering, construction, preservation,

reconstruction and repair of, or improvements to, non-federally aided bridges;

- a \$30 million increase for the Complete Streets Program, which provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities seeking to provide safe and accessible travel mode options for people of all ages and abilities;
- a \$25 million increase for grants to municipalities for the prioritization and enhancement of mass transit by bus; and
- a \$25 million increase for grants to municipalities to expand access to mass transit and commuter rail stations.

Established in 1973, the Chapter 90 program allocates funding annually to all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns, using a formula that takes into account the weighted average of a community's local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%). Funding is provided on a reimbursable basis, with cities and

towns paying up-front for eligible expenses before receiving compensation from the state.

Representative Soter noted that Chapter 90 funding can be used for a variety of construction purposes, including road resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, direction and warning signs, traffic signals, crosswalks, and street lighting. Other eligible construction projects include structural work on bridges, culverts, footbridges and pedestrian bridges, and retaining walls.

Communities can also use Chapter 90 funding for the purchase or long-term lease of certain road-building equipment specifically related to a Chapter 90 project, such as backhoes, catch basin cleaners, concrete mixers, excavators and pavers. Certain consultant services are also eligible for Chapter 90 reimbursement, including civil engineering, land surveying services and environmental permitting support, as well as miscellaneous expenses such as salt storage sheds and garages for storing road building equipment.

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Where You Can Find Nearby Fireworks

By J.D. O'GARA

Looking for fireworks?

If you're patient, Bellingham residents can hold out for your summer fireworks fix until Bellingham Days, which will take place from August 11th – 13th, with fireworks on the final day.

If, however, your July isn't complete without explosions, bursts of color and the smell of burnt gunpowder, you can find fireworks at these nearby locations:

• **Franklin**

Franklin will hold its 4th of July celebration for five days (this year beginning on June 30th), with a carnival and entertainment each night, as well as booths by community groups. More information can be found at (<https://www.franklin4th.com/>). Fireworks are scheduled for July 2nd at 10 p.m., set off from Franklin High School, after the second annual Blues Festival, which will take place on Franklin Town Common beginning at noon.

• **Milford**

July 4th fireworks were planned to be early this year, on Saturday, June 25th, with a rain date of the next night, at 10 p.m., at Plains Park. The town's fourth of July festivities will begin with a parade at 10 a.m.

• **Uxbridge**

Uxbridge Premier 4th of July Fireworks: Celebrating UniBank 150 (+2) Years of Service, McCloskey Middle School, 62 Capron St., Uxbridge, Gates open at 5 p.m. 5PM for delicious food and treats, inflatable rides and games, the 5th annual The Larynx singing competition, with fireworks at 9 p.m. sharp.

• **Medway**

Celebrate Medway Day, on July 16, 2022 at Choate Park, will feature fireworks at 9 p.m. over Choate Pond. The day will also include FREE activities for young (including pony rides) and old including remote control racetrack, a climbing wall, a dunk tank, and boating on the pond, and refreshments "at good old-fashioned prices" will be available.

• **Walpole**

Walpole has been holding an annual Night Before the Fourth celebration for over 50 years, with live music, vendors and food available in downtown Walpole. THIS year's event, however, is two nights before the Fourth, taking place on July 2nd. Festivities will begin at Walpole Town Hall, 135 School St., at 6 p.m. (Get there early, as parking becomes a challenge as the crowd increases. Stone and School Streets will be closed starting 4:30 p.m.) Fireworks, launched from the center pool area on School Street, will take place at 9:30 p.m.



• **Smithfield, RI**

Fireworks, Food Trucks, and Steve Anthony & Persuasion at Deerfield Park will take place on July 1st, from 5-9 p.m.

• **Holliston**

The Holliston Lions Club will be having its 59th annual Carnival at the Holliston High School from July 13th – 16th (Wed.-Sat.). Hours are 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 5 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Friday, and 1 – 11 p.m. on Saturday. There will be fireworks on Saturday July 16th at 10 p.m.

• **Newton**

The 4th of July celebration takes place in Newton from 1 – 9 p.m. at Albemarle Field, Watertown Street, Route 16. Fireworks will go off at 9 p.m., but before that, there's amusements, live bands and other entertainment, including children's activities.

Black Blood Donors Needed: Red Cross Raises Awareness for Sickle Cell Disease

The American Red Cross looked to raise awareness and increase much-needed blood donations from diverse blood donors through a series of blood drives connected with the Juneteenth federal holiday last month.

An estimated 100,000 Americans, primarily of African descent, live with sickle cell disease in the United States and the disease affects 1 out of every 365 Black births. Although there is no cure, regular blood transfusions can help patients manage the intense pain and organ damage associated with the sickling of blood.

Although donors of all races are encouraged to donate blood, many patients have rare blood types unique to certain races and ethnicities. Patients with rare blood types may depend on donors of the same race or similar ethnicity for the most compatible blood.

"When I'm in the hospital and I don't have blood because my blood is sickling, I just feel miserable," said Nari'k Page, a sickle cell patient who is frequently hospitalized in need of blood transfusions. "It feels like something is broken inside my body and the only thing that can fix it is blood." You can view Nari'k's story here: <https://youtu.be/gOAKMAvifo>

Partnerships within the Black community are critical to building trust, sharing information and working together to engage new donors and help save lives. The Red Cross

is grateful for the support of the NAACP, the YMCA of Greater Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Waymark Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dorchester and other community partners who have helped share this important message.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

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Milford -Franklin Eye Center

Decades of Service to the Community And a New Provider

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 7 physicians and Optometrists. In August of 2022 Dr. Donald L. Conn, OD will join our team in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis. Dr Conn is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family.

With offices located in Milford, Franklin and our new office in Millis, our own award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 50, we are proud to be the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care centers in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and

operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No more need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Three experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 4 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your eyecare provider is still asking you to travel for eyecare to far away practices and surgery centers, be aware of this provider financial bias and call us for a second opinion.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon and the area's only full-time specialist in corneal diseases. Having completed his training in Ophthalmology at University of Rochester and his fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the prestigious Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Iowa, Dr. Kaldawy served as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston Uni-

versity where he was Director of the Cornea and External Disease program and trained fellows and residents in Ophthalmology. Some of his trainees are now in academic and private practices in Massachusetts and around the world. Dr Kaldawy published research articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and has been invited as a guest speaker to many prestigious academic programs in the US and around the world including University of New York, Stanford University and University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Kaldawy is proud to be the first surgeon in central Massachusetts and among a handful of surgeons in the State to have performed DSAEK corneal transplantation. With special interest in cataract surgery, Dr Kaldawy has performed over 30,000 procedures and surgeries and was the first surgeon in the area to offer the highly advanced accommodating implants. Dr Kaldawy was the first surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered



locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

Dr. Hatch is the only fellowship trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the area, and is a skilled surgeon with training in the latest techniques for straightening misaligned eyes. Dr. Hatch earned bachelors and master's degrees in engineering from Boston University and Dartmouth College. He completed his medical degree at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1988, followed by residency in Ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship in Pediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology at Duke University. Returning to his home state in 1993, Dr. Hatch joined the Milford-Franklin Eye Center where he focuses on comprehensive pediatric and adult ophthalmology and adult strabismus.

Dr. Lashkari is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist as well as a scientist at the Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School. He is also a part-time Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lashkari completed a Medical-Surgical Fellow in Vitreoretinal disease at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Perriello Consigli received her Bachelor of Science degree from Clark University in 1987. She went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 1991. Dr. Consigli has over twenty five years of experience, spending several years in private practice. In February 2019, Dr. Consigli joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages. She is proficient in routine eye care, contact lens fitting, and diagnosing and treating various eye disease.

Dr. Adams, graduated from John Carroll University, Bachelors of Science, summa cum laude, in 1995. He completed his Masters in Biochemistry from The Ohio State University in 1997. In 2003 he received his Doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Adams has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease and laser refractive surgery.

Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center from the New England Carpenters Benefit Fund – Vision Center, where she served as Head of Optometry. She has over 10 years of experience in comprehensive eye exams for adult, geriatric, pediatric, and special needs populations. Her experience includes performing contact lens fitting and managing contact lens complications. Dr Nguyen is also experienced in glasses fitting and lens edging. Her charitable activities include participating in Boston Cares program and the Boston Special Olympics.

Dr. Donald L. Conn, OD will join our team in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis starting August 2022. Dr Conn is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family. Dr Conn earned his Bachelor of Science from College of the Holy Cross in 2016. He then went on to earn his Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 2021. He has completed a residency in ocular Disease and Primary care at the Bedford VA in June 2022. His clinical experience also includes clinical rotations at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Boston Medical Center and South Boston Community Health Center. Dr Conn will join our team in August of 2022. He is experienced in providing care to patients of all ages including adults, geriatrics and pediatric populations. Outside of work Dr Conn enjoys long distance running and spending time with friends and family.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are different. We focus on excellent and advanced eye care and treat our patients as if each and every one is family. We have surgical results that rival those of major centers in Boston- we can prove it. We are from the community, most of us live in the community and our focus is to serve the community.

SEE

continued on page 15



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



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John F. Hatch, M.D.



Kameran A. Lashkari, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



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EYE

continued from page 14

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For more details, see our ad on page 14.

Franklin, Bellingham Encourage Water Conservation During Tier 1 Drought

By AVERY CHALK

Manicured green lawns and colorful flowers paint the picture of summer, a season of blooming natural beauty. As kids splash under backyard sprinklers, adults may find themselves tending to a flourishing vegetable garden or admiring a perfectly-tended golf course. However, this perfect image relies on one major component that has become increasingly scarce - water.

Low precipitation levels coupled with historically dry summers have caused the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to declare a tier-one drought within the Southeast and Island Regions of the state. This drought has prompted water restriction measures within affected towns as Massachusetts attempts to combat one of its driest seasons in years.

Dubbed the "Water Conservation Plan" by Franklin Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Brutus Cantoreggi, multiple systems have been put into place as per MassDEP's requirements. These include outdoor watering only one day per week, as well as restricting these times to

outside the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Bellingham also has restrictions in place, and DPW Director Don DeMartino explained that the pumping system in the town is not the issue - there simply is not enough water. While splash parks are often a way for some communities to provide relief to hot weather, it's important to prioritize water for drinking and regular use when drought conditions are present.

What can residents do in addition to following conservation guidelines? Rain barrels have increased in popularity since last year. Available through the town, rain barrels capture precious natural rain and can be hooked up to a hose to water flower beds and gardens. Cantoreggi notes that so far this year nearly 170 rain barrels have been distributed, compared to less than half that amount last year.

Many towns in Massachusetts sell rain barrels annually, but you can also purchase them directly from vendors. For more information about where to obtain a barrel, or even how to make your own, visit [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

There are other steps that can be taken in addition to MassDEP's guidelines to conserve water. Here are some of the DPW's suggestions for helping to reduce water use and protect the Earth:

- Fix leaky faucets, showers, and toilets
- Water lawns deeply once per week rather than lightly on a more frequent basis
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth
- Fully load the dishwasher and washing machine for more efficient use
- Wash your car with water from a bucket rather than the hose (especially on off-days of lawn sprinkling)

This ban will no doubt influence usual summertime recreation. Since the restrictions are specifically geared towards homeowners, the community will have to adjust to less available water for play or yard work. However, to protect the environment as well as keep the ban as short as possible, it is important to adhere to the mandated protocols.

Both Franklin and Bellingham

have enforcements set in place by local police to encourage residents to follow these guidelines. Fines up to \$200 might be levied for any violator irrigating their lawn via sprinklers, washing their car, or otherwise infringing on MassDEP's policies.

If conditions worsen, Massachusetts might progress into a tier-two drought. While unlikely, this phase will induce more drastic measures by MassDEP. "If they go to tier two, there's an outright water ban," Cantoreggi explains. "That happened two years ago; we're not at that level yet."

As it stands, DiMartino attests that the water ban is set to be re-evaluated in October. If the state finds that precipitation levels have returned to an acceptable level so as not to jeopardize clean drinking water, restrictions will be loosened. Until then, however, the tier-one measures are here to stay.

By using rain barrels, watering by hose or watering can, you can still have healthy plants, clean cars and vegetables. Taking these necessary steps to conserve resources will pay dividends within the environmental and sanitary conditions of Massachusetts.

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Washing your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons!

Also, some car washes recycle water instead of letting it run down the sewer drains. Ask your parents to check if a car wash near you recycles water.

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\$65k Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant Awarded to Bellingham

On June 2nd, 2022, Representative Soter announced that the Baker/Polito Administration released the inaugural round of grant funding for the Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant Program. The town of Bellingham will receive \$65,589 to improve connectivity.

According to town officials, the money will specifically be used to tie in the newly acquired Department of Public Works facility to the preexisting fiberoptic backbone in the town. The new DPW location does not currently have the infrastructure to support a fiber-optic network. With this funding, the town will be able to design, engineer, manage, and install the proper equipment to facilitate the connection.

Officials say that this project would address the challenge of ensuring secure network access for DPW Employees assigned to the new location. Without the fiber-optic network, the town would have to provide a less secure option of internet and network access at that location.

"This is exciting news for the town as they prepare to shift gears to a new DPW facility," commented State Representative Michael Soter. "Having a secure network is key to ensuring smooth operations on the municipal level. This funding will reduce financial burdens on the town and set this project off on another positive note."

Bellingham Town Administrator, Denis Fraine, com-

mented, "Bellingham's recent Community Compact grant to extend our Municipal Fiber network could not have come at a better time! The Town has been preparing to extend our network to our DPW facilities on Depot St and this grant award will save the Town the expense associated with these improvements. Many thanks to the Town's legislative delegation and especially Rep Soter who met with our Team preparing the grant to provide guidance and a strategy to secure the funding."

Soter and Fraine explained that they will continue to work in conjunction to secure additional grant money for the community of Bellingham.

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Bellingham Business Association Upcoming Events in 2022

August 24th: Summer Event at Circle CG Farm Campground with the Daley's, Rob, Linda, Pete & Cindy

September 12th: Golf Tournament

Visit www.bellinghambusinessassociation.org
 Email: contact@bellinghambusinessassociation.org
 Or find Bellingham Business Association on Facebook @BellinghamBusinessAssociation

A Cherished Keepsake

BVT Earns Jostens 2022 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

There is no better way to capture the memories and accomplishments of your high school years than with a yearbook. The Yearbook program at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School recently earned the Jostens 2022 National Yearbook Program of Excellence award at the bronze level. The award recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st-century skills.

Yearbook advisors Monique McCabe and James Millette work with students to produce the senior class yearbook every school year. The duties of yearbook members include photographing various events throughout the year and designing the page layouts. They also manage content such as senior biographies, baby pictures, and photo submissions and handle sales and promotional marketing activities.

"We are fortunate to have a

dream team of ambitious, dedicated, and talented students on our Yearbook staff," said Monique McCabe. "This award is a direct result of their efforts and dedication to supporting the success of our Yearbook program."

The Yearbook program at BVT earned national recognition for achieving defined criteria in one of the three categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process. "Jostens is proud to recognize the individuals who have created an exceptional yearbook for their school and community," said Tammy Whitaker, Jostens VP, and COO Yearbook Division.

The yearbook committee collaborated with many people to create a customized yearbook that everyone could enjoy. It took patience, perseverance, and passion, but the outcome is a beautifully designed printed book that is sure to be cherished for years to

come, not to mention the experience of working with an incredible team.

The 2021-2022 yearbook committee positions were held by Multimedia Communications seniors:

- Anna Martin of Hopedale, President;
- Carley Capobianco of Sutton, Treasurer;
- Kelli Konieczny of Upton, Social Media Director;
- Alyssa Huff of Blackstone, Photography Director;
- Alexis Vazquez of Uxbridge, Layout Director; and
- Abril Sanchez of Uxbridge, Senior Content Director.

Other contributing members included: Jenna Dolber of Northbridge, a junior; Nora Iadarola of Grafton, a freshman; Mia Delvecchio of Blackstone, a freshman; Cole Pavento of Milford, a sophomore; Karis Torqu of Uxbridge, a sophomore; Hannah Murphy of Millville, a sophomore; and Mikaela Sadik of Northbridge, a sophomore.

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Bellingham Fire Department Installs Lock Boxes for Seniors

Last month, the Bellingham Fire Department, led by Safe Coordinator Lt. Brad Kwatcher, installed 32 lock boxes in the homes of senior citizens in Bellingham. This program has been very successful since its inception in 2014. We have installed over 100 lock boxes to seniors in town and it has been proven beneficial and life-saving. The boxes are mounted to the homes and a key is placed in the box. The box can only be opened with a code that is stored in the dispatcher's database. This reduces the time it takes to break a door

down to get to someone in an emergency and it also reduces damage to the doors.

This program is funded from the Senior Safe Grant that is awarded from the Department of Fire Services every year. Kwatcher was helped by Captain Neil Coakley and Lt. Mark Lister.



Photo by ABMI CABLE TV

Bellingham High School Graduation Available on ABMI TV

The Bellingham High School 2022 graduation took place on a beautiful night of June 3, 2022, with students switching their tassels and entering life as high school graduates. You can view the whole ceremony on Access Bellingham Mendon, Inc. (ABMI CABLE TV) at <https://abmi8.org>.

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Bellingham Memorial School's First Track & Field Season Makes Strides

Bellingham Memorial School's inaugural season of Middle School Track and Field was a great success! 75 athletes in grades 5, 6 and 7 competed in seven Track and Field Meets

this season. Athletes ran hurdles, sprint and long-distance races as well as relays and competed in three field events: the high jump, long jump and shot put. Seventeen athletes went on to enter the

Massachusetts Championship Meet, where top athletes from across Massachusetts competed for best in the State.



The very first BMS Track and Field Team, 2022
Photos: Photos used courtesy of Sam Cowell



Seventeen members of BMS' Track & Field team competed at the Massachusetts Championship Meet. These include: Front row, left to right: Julia Simon, Lindsay Dixon, Nicole Rogers, Jenna Dormady, Emma Carroll, Nicolette Hayes, William Lahousse, TJ Poelaert

Thimble Pleasure Quilt Guild Awards 2022 Scholarship

The Thimble Pleasure Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that the recipient of its 2022 Scholarship is Emily Warner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Warner of Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Emily is a recent graduate of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and will be attending the University of Hartford where she will be enrolled in the University Honors Program to study art.

This scholarship is awarded annually to high school seniors in the towns represented by the members of the guild and presently, is offered to students in 13 area towns.



Emily Warner is pictured with Joyce Gilmore a member of the Scholarship Committee who presented to award to Emily.

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297 BVT Graduates Earn Diplomas and Industry Recognized Certifications in 2022

The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony was held outside on its athletic field on May 26th. The evening ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2022 with well-wishes for the graduates before they embark on their next adventure.

Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Mr. Anthony E. Steele II remarked, "I couldn't be more proud of what you have accomplished together over the past four years. I am confident that the Class of 2022 has the skills and the passion to meet any endeavor with success."

"Having embarked upon a successful voyage through high school, the BVT journey itself may prove to be the most impactful lesson as our graduates take what they learned into their next great adventure," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "I'm sure that your time at BVT has and will continue to shape your ca-



The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony concluded with cheers and applause for the graduates as they tossed their caps towards the sky.

reer paths. There is a world full of exciting and endless possibilities just waiting for you. Go, find it!"

Two hundred and ninety-seven students concluded their dual high school education. They received a vocational cer-

tificate and a diploma, which certify mastery of competencies in their career-technical programs and a rigorous academic course of study. To view the ceremony, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/classof2022.

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Applying more fertilizer than the label recommends or your soil needs won't improve your lawn, and instead the extra fertilizer may wash off into nearby waterways. Just as fertilizer helps plants grow on the land, it encourages algae and other aquatic plants to grow in water. Dense weeds and algae reduce oxygen in the water, which in turn harms fish and other aquatic life. "Green water" is also much less attractive for boating, swimming and other human uses.

- Please help keep our local waters clean:**
- Test your lawn soil and calibrate your spreader.
 - Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly. Sweep any overspray back onto the lawn.
 - Mow 2.5 to 3 inches high with a sharp blade to encourage dense growth and deter weeds.
 - Leave grass clippings on the lawn to lessen the need for fertilizer.
 - Never discard yard waste down storm drains or into waterways.
 - Water deeply and infrequently, and time watering to avoid evaporation and runoff.
 - Reseed bare areas with drought-tolerant varieties of lawn grass.

 For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Over-feeding our lawns may also green our rivers and ponds!

Bellingham Public Library News & Events for July

For updates to library programs and services, please see the library website, www.bellingham-library.org.

Click on the red alert banner on the top of the page for details.

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The library is closed on Saturdays until September 10th.

The library will be closed on Monday, July 4th for Independence Day

Special Programs

Memory Café – Tuesday, July 5th at 11:30 a.m.

A memory café is a welcoming place for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking and their family and friends. Contact Terri Graham at the Bellingham Senior Center for details, (508) 657-2710, tgraham@bellingham.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, July 22nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register at redcrossblood.org

Summer Reading Program and More for Kids!

Details of the Summer Reading Program are on the library

website on the main menu under “Summer Reading Program.” You will find out details of the events listed below, a printable brochure, online and paper reading logs, links to the school summer reading lists, and information about Rockland Trust’s “Reading Makes Cents” program. Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and The Friends of the Library are the sponsors of this year’s Summer Reading Program. We thank them for their financial support to bring special programs to the Bellingham community!

The Write Stuff – Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

For ages 8+. Get your creative writing juices flowing in this fun class! By the end of the summer, we will put all your work together in a bound book that we will add to our children’s room collection. Please register one time to attend all Write Stuff classes.

Krafty Kids – Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Do a weekly craft with Miss Diane. Please sign up for each Krafty Kids class you plan to attend.

Dungeons & Dragons for Teens, Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m.

Join the Adventure! Spend two hours once a week with GM

Nick leading three to six teens (ages 13 to 17) through an 8-week Dungeons and Dragons adventure. No previous experience with Dungeons and Dragons or role-playing games is required. See the library calendar for details and to register. No class the week of July 18th.

Minion Party! – Wednesday, July 6th at 4:30 p.m.

For families. Despicable Me fans will love this party featuring games, activities, prizes and lots of minion fun. Please sign up!

Giant Candy Land – Thursday, July 7th at 1 p.m.

For families. Drop in anytime between 1 and 2 p.m. to play a round of Candy Land and win lots of candy! Also meet some of the characters. No sign-up required.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Hiking Edition – Friday, July 8th

Drop off your stuffed animal before 3 p.m. and they will get to spend the weekend hiking with Mr. Steve! You can pick up your stuffy on Monday and soon watch the video of what fun was had “beyond the beaten path.” Sign up preferred so that we can send you the completed video!

Rockabye Beats – Monday, July 11th at 10:30 a.m.

For families. Rockabye Beats recognizes that children love contemporary music just as much as adults do. They also understand that this is the perfect time for your child to experience a second language. Their Spanish-infused songs aren’t watered down or one-note, but rather they’re catchy and fun, and very often make you want to dance a cha cha. No matter your age, the original music of Rockabye Beats is enjoyable for the whole family! Please register your family for this fun program. Sponsored by the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

Big Ryan’s Tall Tales – Tuesday, July 12th at 6:30 p.m.

For families. Big Ryan, one of our favorite storytellers, is back with some stories that are sure to make you giggle. Stories are appropriate for kids of all ages. Please register your family for this fun program! Sponsored by the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

Diaper Derby! – Monday, July 18th at 10 a.m.

Calling all crawling babies! We need you! Come to the li-

brary and complete in a crawling race. Once babies are able to walk, they may no longer compete. Sign up required.

Impromptu Magic with Ed the Wizard – Tuesday, July 19th at 4 p.m.

For ages 7 and up. Learn how to perform Impromptu Magic with Ed the Wizard! You will learn how to perform easy magic with everyday items that you might have on a camping or hiking trip. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Seating is limited, please register.

Fancy Nancy: Red Carpet Event – Wednesday, July 20th at 6:30 p.m.

For families. Get all dressed up and join us for a special red carpet event where we will do all things beaucoup fancy! Registration required.

Superhero Night – Friday, July 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

For families. Kids are encouraged to dress like their favorite superheroes, and participate in superhero activities after the library is closed! Please sign up!

LIBRARY

continued on page 21

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Blackstone Valley Tech Scholarships & Awards

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is proud to announce its class of 2022 scholarship and award recipients.

As BVT's newest graduates prepare to advance their career training, awards totaling nearly 11 million in renewable value are a catalyst allowing its recipients the financial freedom to implement their career plans across various pathways.

"Some students use financial aid to cover tuition at colleges or universities, while others purchase new tools, clothing, and equipment to launch their ca-

reers," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "The assistance of these scholarships and awards set our graduates in motion toward a bright future to contribute as well-trained, educated, and skilled members of the workforce."

The following is a list of the scholarships and awards earned by Bellingham members of the Class of 2022, including immediate plans for career training. Scholarship amounts reflect the first-year total. For more details, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients2022.

BELLINGHAM

Bartelloni, Lily – Worcester State University (Nursing) John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$970

Biagi, Liana – Worcester State (Business) John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$970.00 Worcester State Scholarship: \$1,000.00

Buckley, Colin – Johnson & Wales University (Culinary Arts, Food & Beverage Management) Presidential Scholarship: \$24,500.00

Burgess, Daniel – Herb Chambers Collision Center/Gasco Auto Service (Employed, General Body Tech)

Michael J. Cammuso Jr. Memorial Scholarship: \$500.00
Joey Wilson Memorial Scholarship: \$600.00

Kaminski-Miller, Alec – Bulldog Fire Apparatus (Employed, Body Tech)
Joey Wilson Memorial Scholarship: \$600.00

Lussier, Abigail – Springfield College (Exercise Science)

UniBank Scholarship - Corp. John Dawson: \$2,000.00

McMillen, Andrew – University of Rhode Island (Business Management)

Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation Scholarship: \$1,000.00

Presidential Academic Scholarship: \$11,000.00

URI Grant: \$2,900.00

Powell, Benjamin – University of South Carolina Beaufort (Business)

Resident Scholarship: \$11,076.00

LIBRARY

continued from page 20

Kindergarten Preparedness – Mondays at 10:30 a.m., from July 25th through August 15th

For kids entering Kindergarten in the fall. Join Miss Melissa, a certified early childhood educator and experienced Kindergarten preparedness teacher, to get a head start on the coming school year. Registration is necessary and participants are expected to attend a majority of the classes.

Family Feud – Thursday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m.

For all ages. Get together a team of your family or your friends to compete against others in Family Feud! Survey says... you'll have a great time. Please register!

Other Children's Programs

Details on the programs below are available on the library website (<https://www.bellinghamma.org/library/kids>) and calendar (<https://bit.ly/3xMECct>)

New this month: GO! Story Time (Tuesdays at 1:15, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am); Fact or Fiction, July 13th at 4:30

Other Adult Programs

Additional details of these programs are available on the library calendar (<https://bit.ly/3xMECct>)

- Book Club generally meets on the first Monday of the month, email Reference Librarian Cecily Christensen at cchrister@cwmars.org for details.
- Friends of the Library generally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for details.
- Library Board of Trustees generally meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for details.
- Adult Writing Group generally meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Email marjorie@marjorieturner.com for details.



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Concerts on the Grass 2022



BELLINGHAM TOWN COMMON

Wednesday, July 6 — KIDS' NIGHT, 6 PM. Wayne Potash and Trevor the Games Man. *Sponsored by the Bellingham Town Common Trustees*

Wednesday, July 13—6 PM, Free pony rides; **7 PM, Morse Code** (classic rock).
Opening Act: **The Wild Beyond** (classic rock).

Wednesday, July 20 — 6 PM, Free pony rides; **7 PM, Vinyl Echo** (80's rock).

Wednesday, July 27 — 6 PM, Free pony rides; **7 PM, Jesse Liam Band** (contemporary rock).

MENDON TOWN BEACH

Wednesday, Aug. 3 — 6:30-7:30 PM, Free pony rides; **6:30-8:30 PM, Back Pages** (rock and pop).

Wednesday, Aug. 10 — 6:30-7:30 PM, Free pony rides; **6:30-8:30 PM, Westwood Swing** (Big Band Era).

Wednesday, Aug. 17 — 6:30-7:30 PM, Free pony rides; **6:30-8:30 PM, Brass Connection** (brass band).



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Coming Up at the Bellingham Senior Center in July

The Bellingham Senior Center is located at 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Reach them at (508) 966-0398 or visit www.bellinghamma.org

KARAOKE: will kick-off in conjunction with the first BESG cookout for the month on July 7. Stay tuned for a weekly offering

after that... day and time to be announced.

WELCOME: Welcome Lisa Loo—the newest staff member! It is such a pleasure to have you, your energy, great smile, and positive attitude at the Senior Center. It has been fun working with

you and I am looking forward to many more fun times!

CRAFT FAIR: The Craft Fair is progressing nicely and on schedule -- vendors are in place, donations are being received and, of course, with more to do because we have many plans and meetings to continue getting ready for November 5. It is a very busy exciting time and though it is several months away, we know how quickly the time goes! We are accepting donations for the BESG yard sale and the Craft Fair (like new room). Please bring donations to the Senior Center -- remember we cannot accept shoes, clothing, and electronics!

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM: The Grab & Go senior lunch program will be on vacation July and August and back in September! See you then!

BOOK CLUB: The book club will meet July 26 at the Senior Center at 1 p.m. and the book we will be discussing is Where Daffodils Bloom by Leya Delray.

RAINBOW CAFÉ: Are you a member or ally of the LGBTQ+ community? (An ally is a friend in the community or family

member who has your best interests at heart.) Come join us and like-minded people for coffee, conversation, and friendship. Thursday, August 11 from 2-3 p.m. Please call ahead to attend.

WALKING CLUB steps off every Friday morning at 8 at the SNETT on Center Street. You're invited to join in! Sign up by calling the Center at (508) 966-0398.

MEMORY CAFÉ: Memory Café has reopened. This popular – and free – program provides seniors with dementia or any kind of cognitive impairment an opportunity to socialize. The first Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is when the Memory Café will be open, and it will be at the Bellingham Library.

ZENTANGLE: “Zentangle is organized doodling,” explains Helen Whiting, a Senior Center volunteer and Zentangle instructor. On the second Monday of each month, this new class will meet at 1 p.m.. It's free and all supplies will be provided.

Virtual Activities

Mondays — Spiritual Book Club, 9 a.m. Discussions on *The Mount of Olives* by Michael Ivanov will begin on July 11.

Thursdays — Women's Wellness, 1:30 p.m.

All via Zoom and free. Contact Terri Graham at (508) 966-0398 to sign up and to receive a weekly email listing all the Zooming opportunities.

Talent Search!

The Senior Center is looking for qualified, inspired instructor-volunteers to lead a variety of new classes. Would you be interested? New classes might include foreign languages such as Italian, ukulele instruction, acrylic art, famous works of art, flower arranging, jewelry design, and nutrition. What have we missed? What would you like to share with Bellingham seniors? Please contact Terri Graham at tgraham@bellinghamma.org or call (508) 966-0398 to share your inspiration!

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Going, Going, Gone! BVT to Comply with Records Regulations

Attention Class of 2015, Destruction of Student Records is set for August 1st

In accordance with state and federal regulations, special education (IEP) and 504 student records shall be destroyed seven years after the student leaves the school. For the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 2015, this date is **August 1, 2022**.

The Class of 2015 may request special education and 504 records before the August 1st shred date by written request. Be sure to indicate the year of graduation, and name while attending school, to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Techni-

cal High School, Student Services Record Dept., 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568.

Student transcripts (a record of grades) shall be destroyed 60 years after the student leaves the school. For the Class of 2015, that date is August 1, 2075. An alum from that class may request a transcript from their graduation date: May 2015 through August 1, 2075.

If you want to retain your records, learn how at: www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/studentrecords.

Protecting Free Speech!

Bellingham Resident Reflects on the Impact of a 2002 Historic Supreme Court Ruling as 20th Anniversary Nears

While Jehovah's Witnesses have chosen to temporarily suspend their door-to-door ministry due to the pandemic, their activity was almost permanently banned by one U.S. village in the late 1990s — that is until the United States Supreme Court stepped in with a historic 8-1 decision on June 17, 2002, declaring the local ordinance unconstitutional.

As the 20th anniversary of that precedent-setting decision nears, some Bellingham residents wonder what their lives would be like if one of their neighbors had not knocked on their door and shared a life-changing message with them.

Janet Brewster, of Bellingham, remembers the day she received a knock on her door. "When I met Jehovah's Witnesses, I had two young children, and I was really fearful for their future," Brewster said. That visit to her door had a positive impact on her life. "It brought peace and direction to my life, and it's helped me bring

up my kids so that they can have a happy life too," Brewster said.

The 2002 Supreme Court decision in *Watchtower v. Village of Stratton* affirmed that a local village ordinance in Stratton, Ohio, requiring a permit to knock on doors violated the rights of any person who wanted to engage in free speech with their neighbor, including Jehovah's Witnesses who practice door-to-door evangelizing. The Court overturned two lower court rulings that upheld the ordinance, and thus paved the way for all citizens to maintain open dialogue with their neighbors on any number of issues including environmental, civic, political or educational.

While Brewster continues to engage in a productive ministry through letter writing, phone calling and virtual visits, she is looking forward to knocking on doors again.

For more information on the Stratton case, go to www.jw.org and type Stratton in the search field.

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Sports

BHS Nine Downs Clinton, Bows to Abington in Tourney

Tourney Roundup

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

There was good news and bad news for Bellingham High's baseball team in the Division 4 state tournament.

First the good news.

Coach Andy Nolan's squad relied on Ryan Maiorano's no-hit pitching, and three home runs by three underclassmen to defeat Clinton, 11-2, in the opening round of the playoffs.

Maiorano, who already has committed to Fairfield University, breezed through the first six innings but tired in the final stanza. Clinton scored its two runs on a pair of walks, a hit batter, a wild pitch and a passed ball. Maiorano struck out 16.

A junior, Maiorano helped his cause by slamming a three-run homer in the third inning. The Blackhawks' Tyler Ladouceur, a sophomore, hit a homer in the first inning and freshman John Sullivan whacked a two-run shot to left field in the sixth.

The no-hitter was Maiorano's second of the season, and it paved the way for the Blackhawks to advance to the second round against Abington.

"I threw a no-hitter in our first game of the season against Northbridge," said Maiorano, "but this one is my top thrill because it came in the playoffs."

Bellingham's 11 RBIs came from five players — 3 by Maiorano, 3 from Ladouceur, 2 from Sullivan, 2 from Ross Priscella and one from Corey Perkins.

"We got great pitching and plenty of power today," said Nolan. "Pitching is our top strength, but our team chemistry is also a big key."

The Blackhawks are a young squad, comprised of one senior,

5 juniors, 9 sophomores and one freshman. Besides Maiorano, other starters include Alex Hughes, Ladouceur and Troy Simpson. CJ Fama and Jack Hildred provide solid efforts in relief.

Now the bad news.

Abington scored a run in the seventh inning, breaking a 2-2 tie and ousting Bellingham from the tourney. The Blackhawks left eight runners on base and squandered scoring chances in three innings.

Abington loaded the bases in the seventh without the ball leaving the infield. An error and two bunts, one of which was bobbled, filled the bases. Pitcher Jack Hildred, who had replaced Hughes in the fifth inning, struck out Ryan Tobin but Aiden O'Donnell hit a grounder to second and the throw to the plate was late. Fama came in for Hildred and retired Stephen Madden and Spencer Merrick.

The Blackhawks, who had runners on first and second in their half of the seventh, failed to score, losing, 3-2, and bowing out of the playoffs with a 10-12 overall record.

Nolan said after the loss that "we let this one get away. We left eight runners on base, and in the second inning, we had runners on first and third and didn't score," he continued. "We pitched well enough to win but we didn't execute on offense and didn't cash in while they cleaned up their defensive lapses."

The Blackhawks also stranded two runners in the sixth and seventh innings.

Bellingham's three pitchers were all sophomores and they combined for 11 strikeouts and only one walk. "Our strikeout to walk ratio for the year was 186 strikeouts to 74 walks," Nolan mentioned. "We've got most all



Bellingham's Ryan Maiorano, who was the pitcher of the year in the Tri Valley League's Small Division, threw a no-hitter against Clinton in the state tournament.

of our players back for next year. We should have a great nucleus and we'll be better and wiser."

The Blackhawks had three players named to the TVL all-star team. Maiorano was chosen Pitcher of the Year in the Small Division and Ladouceur and Nolan were honorable-mention choices.

BOYS' LACROSSE

The boys' lacrosse team, which ended its regular season with a 4-14 record, qualified for the state tourney, but its stay was short-lived, as the Blackhawks lost to Nantucket, 16-2, in the first round. Nantucket was seeded No. 8 in Division 4 and Bellingham was seeded 25th.

The Blackhawks' goals were scored by Connor Henchey and Harry Gearhart.

"Nantucket definitely was the better team," said coach Steve Linehan. "The loss was disappointing, but in spite of it, the tourney atmosphere was a plus for the players and the program. It's a milestone. It helps the kids buy into the program, and it's all about the boys getting tourney-level experience."

Linehan was pleased that Henchey and Gearhart tallied goals. "Connor's goal was his 39th of the season and he finishes as the No. 2 scorer in the program," Linehan noted. "Harry has been in the program

for three years and was playing in his first varsity game. He'll return next year, but it was nice to see him get his first goal."

Bellingham's appearance in the playoffs was its second in the 12-year history of the program, and it was the Blackhawks first berth during Linehan's six years at the helm.

Linehan sees a bright future, especially next season, when he'll have nine varsity returnees and only one will be a senior.

"Three freshmen and three sophomores started for us this year," he emphasized. "When I became the coach in 2017, 90% of the kids at the varsity level had no prior experience. Now, 99% of the players have lacrosse experience. The youth program is 10 years old now and there's a solid group of volunteers that direct the program."

Linehan, who played midfield for four years at St. Michael's College in Vermont, is starting to see positive signs in his sixth year.

"Some things needed to change when I took the reins," he said. "Attitudes changed, we needed to be competitive in the Tri Valley League, and we stressed accountability. We're now seeing the improvements of a team-first philosophy. Going forward, a tourney berth is the expectation for the program."

Linehan's team motto is: "Our habits have to be greater than or equal to our goals." That translates to mastering the fundamentals.

This year's team won four games and three of those triumphs came against Division 2 squads — two victories over Milford and a win against Auburn. The other triumph was against Division 4 Seekonk. Two of the Blackhawks losses were heartbreakers. One was an 11-10 loss to Hopkinton in overtime and an 8-7 setback against Ashland.

The BHS captains were all multi-sport athletes who provided quality leadership. They included Henchey (midfielder), Mark Imparato (goalie) and Sean Edwards (defense), and junior attack Liam Keating. Henchey was a TVL all-star, only the third in the program's history.

"I'm encouraged by the way we took a step forward this year,"

Linehan said. "We showed we can be competitive in the TVL and get to the playoffs. And, even though the travelling to Nantucket was lengthy, the boys got the experience of tourney play and going to the island."

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

The boys' volleyball team, which compiled a winning record (10-9) during the regular season, was eliminated in the opening round of the state tourney. Coach Steve Mantegani's Blackhawks lost, 3-0, to Holyoke by scores of 25-14, 25-15 and 25-19.

The boys' program, which was in its third competitive season, qualified for the playoffs for the first time. And, although Mantegani was proud of the plus-.500 record and the tourney berth, he could sense his forces were a bit anxious in their tourney debut.

"We got off to a slow start against a good Holyoke squad," he said. "We made some mistakes in the first game, but we started to jell after that. We went up, 10-6 in the third game and played with confidence. Overall, we could have played better but our team showed courage."

Mantegani, whose first year at the helm ended with a winless record (0-18), guided the boys to a 2-12 season last year and to a winning mark during the spring campaign. Next year should be positive because there'll be 10 returnees (2 freshmen, one sophomore, one junior and 6 seniors).

"This year's goal was to qualify for the tourney," he said. "Now, we want to build on that tradition. We don't want to miss any more playoff appearance going forward."

Holyoke was the 15th seed and Bellingham was seeded 18th.

"Captains Grant Wojick (setter) and Zachary Mantegani (right-side hitter) kept us focused against Holyoke," the coach said. "They played with composure and provided great leadership."

Mantegani, who also is the girls' volleyball coach, has built that team into a very competitive group. The girls have been to the playoffs four times in five years.

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Sports

Bellingham Boys' Volleyball Takes Another Step Forward

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Entering its fourth year the Bellingham boys' volleyball team was looking to keep moving the program in the right direction. In what was to be their actual third year on the court, they lost the 2020 season due to Covid, the Blackhawks wanted to improve upon last year's abbreviated season.

During its inaugural season of the program, Bellingham went winless, and last year during a shortened season, the boys were able to manage to secure two wins. This year, Coach Steve Mantegani's team took a big step forward and put together a 10-9 season, earning themselves a spot in the Division 2 State Tournament as the number 18 seed.

"We had brought back a lot of last year's team, and they worked really hard to improve this season. They were very excited to put together a winning season and make it to the tournament," the Blackhawk Coach said. "It was about midway through the season when they realized that they had a good chance of making the tournament if they continued to work hard and play the way they were the rest of the way."

Having only two seniors take to the court this spring, Mantegani knows that this year is another stepping stone in the future of this program. Bellingham's only seniors consist of outside and middle hitter Mateus Lemos and first year volleyball player Will Ferguson. As a wrestler for Bellingham Ferguson was looking for something to do this spring before graduating and decided on volleyball at the coaches urging.

"I think that Will made a very good choice in picking volleyball. He picked up the game quickly and has been in and out of the lineup as a middle hitter who is a strong blocker with a great attitude," Mantegani said. "As for Mateus, our other senior, we will not see him in the tournament as he will be in Paris Island at Marine training camp. We will miss

his flexibility and contributions." Leading the way into the tournament for Bellingham was their tri-captains Grant Wojik, Zach Mantegani and Dan Rose. Wojik, the team's junior setter has been with the squad since eighth grade and has developed each year where the Bellingham offense now runs through him. In addition to high school volleyball, he also plays club for the Newton Smash.

Rose, a junior, plays middle hitter and according to his coach he is one of the most dynamic hitters on the team. He also jumps well, hits hard and is a great blocker setting the tone in the front row. Rose led the team in blocks and was second in kills. Mantegani is a sophomore opposite side hitter who can do a bit of everything for the team. He has carried the team in some tough matches this season and was the leader in kills for the Blackhawks.

In addition to the tri-captains providing a spark on the court, junior libero Anthony Campbell has been doing a lot of digging the ball out in the back row for Bellingham this spring and although a great player the junior is often very tough on his performance. Two outside hitters, junior Kalen Sahin, and fresh-

man Jack Davidson, have both provided the team with a strong attack complimenting the team's strength down the middle.

Bellingham also had two athletes looking to help the team in juniors Christian Saccol and Matt Ulsh. Saccol had a tough time this season with an ankle injury but when he was able to play, he did a great job for Bellingham controlling the middle of the court with Rose. Ulsh, a back row player this year, has been battling a shoulder injury throughout the year. His strength is usually in the front and Mantegani is hoping he'll be back to that position next year fully healthy.

One athlete that has impressed the Coach has been eighth grader Thomas Crandall, who seemed to pick the game up very quickly.

"I usually don't like to put eight graders in the line of fire on a varsity team, but he has proven himself, and it will be exciting to have him back for four more years," the Blackhawk Coach said. "He passes well and is physical with his game; he is not your typical eighth grader. Once the game begins and he gets going, you don't even notice that he is an eighth grader."



Bellingham Boys' Volleyball had a winning season, making it to the tournament for the first time since it began 4 years ago.

Bellingham was very excited for things to get underway with their first tourney.

"We have had a couple of very tough practices and are excited to compete on this level," Mantegani said. "We've had some tough games through the year and think that we have learned from those games and by win-

ning the games that we should have won."

Unfortunately, Bellingham's first visit to the State Tournament was not what they were looking for as number 15 Holyoke took them out in 3 sets during the round of 32. You can read about that in more detail in Ken Hamwey's Tourney Roundup.

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Expanded Eligibility for MA Medal of Liberty

On Monday, May 30th, Representative Michael J. Soter (R-Bellingham) proudly announced an expansion of eligibility for the

existing Massachusetts Medal of Liberty at the Uxbridge Town Common during the Memorial Day ceremony. The existing Medal of Liberty is given to the next of kin of servicemen and women who died in service. The amendment to the medal was signed into law by Governor Baker as part of Bill H4269, a sweeping COVID relief bill, in December of 2021.

Prior to the additional criteria being passed, only servicemen and women who died during active military conflicts were eligible for the award. The Medal of Liberty could not be given to those who perished during training exercises. With the changes implemented under the passage of this bill, eligibility is now extended to those individuals.

For multiple legislative sessions, there has been a standalone bill filed by State Representatives Brian Murray (D-Milford) and Michael Soter, which called for these changes. However, the language was finally signed into law after being introduced as an amendment to House Bill 4269.



Bomber Crash, when two B-24 aircraft collided while flying back to Westover Airfield after completing training exercises. Two of the seven passengers exited the plane with parachutes and were able to land safely on the ground, but the other five were killed, likely because they stayed at the controls to ensure that others made it to safety. These five brave individuals are among the classification that would now be awarded the Medal of Liberty since they perished during a training exercise.

“The eligibility expansion for the Medal of Liberty was long overdue,” commented Rep. Soter. “Individuals that gave the ultimate sacrifice protecting our liberties deserve to be recognized regardless of the circumstances under which they died. I was humbled to be involved in this initiative, and I will continue to work to ensure that our servicemen and women are honored and remembered.”

This initiative will build on the State of Massachusetts’s commitment to honoring its veterans and fallen soldiers.

H.4269 focused on a number of investments within the commonwealth including the stabilization of the state economy, improving housing availability, and ensuring public health.

During his Memorial Day address on the Uxbridge Town Common, Representative Soter referenced the 1944 Uxbridge

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3. Jeff’s mom calls their insurance company to see if their premium will cost less when Jeff turns 25 years old, which will happen on the Fourth of July. Will their price go down?



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Answer 3: No, there is no discount when a driver turns 25.

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Calendar

July 1

Franklin 4th of July Coalition, carnival, and entertainment, 6-10 p.m., Franklin Town Common

July 2

Franklin 4th of July Coalition Blues Festival 12-9:30 p.m., Franklin Town Common, fireworks, 10 p.m., Franklin High School lot

July 3

Franklin 4th of July Coalition, carnival, and entertainment, 1-10 p.m., Franklin Town Common

July 4

Franklin 4th of July Coalition, carnival, and entertainment, 12-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common

July 6

Concert, Bellingham Town Common, 6 p.m. - Kids Night with Wayne Potash and Trevor the Games Man. (No pony rides tonight).

July 11

Rockabye Beats, 10:30 a.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Family program

sponsored by the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

July 12

Big Ryan's Tall Tales, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Family program sponsored by the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

July 13

Concert, Bellingham Town Common, 6 p.m. - Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Morse Code (classic rock). Opening Act: The Wild Beyond (classic rock).

July 19

Impromptu Magic with Ed the Wizard, 4 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., For ages 7 and up. Learn how to perform easy magic with everyday items that you might have on a camping or hiking trip. Program supported in part by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mas-

sachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Seating is limited, please register.

July 20

Concert, Bellingham Town Common, 6 p.m. - Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Vinyl Echo (80's rock).

Fancy Nancy: Red Carpet Event, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., 6:30 p.m.,

For families. Get all dressed up and join us for a special red-carpet event where we will do all things beaucoup fancy! Registration required.

July 22

Red Cross Blood Drive, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Register at redcrossblood.org

July 23

Household Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bellingham Memorial Middle School, 130 Blackstone St., Bellingham

July 27

Concert, Bellingham Town Common, 6 p.m. - Free pony rides. 7 p.m. Jesse Liam Band (contemporary rock).

July 28

Family Feud, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100

Blackstone St., Bellingham For all ages. Get together a team of your family or your friends to compete against others in Family Feud! Survey says... you'll have a great time. Please register!

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