

Hopedale Select Board removes Pledge of Allegiance from its future agendas

Rescinds a 2015 board vote that added it to the board's agenda

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has removed the Pledge of Allegiance from its future board meetings.

At its meeting on June 27, the board voted 2-1 (Glenda Hazard and Bernie Stock in favor, Brian Keyes opposed) to rescind a vote by a 2015 Board of Selectmen that officially added the Pledge at the top of its meeting agendas.

Keyes urged the board to keep the tradition, and called its removal disrespectful and unpatriotic.

Hazard said she received several public comments in

support of her suggestion to remove it from the agenda, and only one person was opposed.



Stock said he did not think the Pledge needed to be on the agenda. He recalled his previous service (of 10 years) on the Board of Selectmen when it was not on the agenda nor

was it said at the meetings. He also served as Town Moderator for 14 years and the Pledge was not said at those meetings either.

Stock also cautioned against calling his patriotism into question.

“My experience in Vietnam was in the mortuary and I saw cases go out day after day, hundreds at a time, with flags on them, so I know what that flag represents. I don't need to pledge to it to understand the importance of it and the significance that it carries.”

PLEDGE

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Voters direct town officials to pursue purchase of 364 West Street

Special Town Meeting approves borrowing \$3.9 million

By THERESA KNAPP

The Town of Hopedale held a Special Town Meeting on July 11 for the sole purpose of authorizing the town to acquire up to 130.18 acres of land located at 364 West Street, and to borrow \$3,900,000 to do so.

The land in question is located at 364 West Street and includes forestland, wetlands, is just above the Hopedale Pond resource area, and is near the Upton Town Forest. Voters approved the purchase of 130.18 acres of forestland for \$1.175 million and another 25 acres of wetland for \$25,000. The intent of the purchase was to protect the town's water quality, aquifer, and to protect the future water supply of Hopedale and the Town of Mendon.

Just days before the October 2020 meeting, the Grafton & Upton Railroad purchased the

property. Shortly after the town vote, the Board of Selectmen filed suit against GURR in an attempt to exercise its right of first refusal. After weeks of negotiations between the town via special town counsel, and GURR, a “settlement term sheet” was negotiated and accepted (2-1, Hazard opposed) in Jan. 2021.

Soon after the board signed the settlement agreement,, a group of concerned citizens filed suit against the town alleging officials did not carry out the wishes of the voters at the Oct. 2020 special town meeting; that lawsuit is still making its way through the court system.

Like the 2020 vote, the vote at last month's Special Town Meeting was also clearly “yay” with just

364 WEST STREET

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PLEDGE

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Keyes said the Pledge should not be removed to “save time” or to “get down to business.”

Hazard acknowledged the Pledge signifies unity to some people but, to her, it highlights the current division in the United States. She said, “I assume that we all love our country and that I don’t really need to dictate how we all love our country.” She said other boards do not say the Pledge and when the Select Board has said it in the past, it would typically be to an empty room. She also said she would like meetings to “get right to business”, noted the Pledge refers to God which some people disagree with, and she [Hazard] does not feel she can personally force someone to pledge their allegiance to anything specific.

The issue had been raised at

Old Business

Adoption of format for Board of Selectmen Meetings

The Board discussed the adoption of Robert’s Rules of Order and changing the agenda format by adding “public comment on agenda items”. This will allow the public an opportunity to discuss items listed on the agenda. The board would like to add “public comment and requests for future agenda items” after old business. This will give the public an opportunity to make requests for items to be placed on future agendas. In addition, the board would like to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every meeting. [emphasis added].

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

*Hopedale Board of Selectmen
June 1, 2015 meeting minutes, excerpt
<https://bit.ly/3AYOWMD>*

a previous meeting, after which town resident Len Guertin shared meeting minutes from the June 1, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting where that board unanimously voted to add the pledge to the agendas. Those minutes served as a guide for the motion to rescind.

364 WEST STREET

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two or three “nay”s. The warrant contained one article which was discussed for 11 minutes and read, in part:

“Such acquisition to be made to maintain and preserve said property and the forest, water, air, and other natural resources thereon for the use of the public and [emphasis added] for conservation and recreation purposes to be managed under the control of the Hopedale Parks Commission provided that such authorization shall not be construed as (1) ratifying the terms of the settlement agreement, and (2) authorizing the Select Board to acquire free title to any portions of the property that are currently not in use by the [Grafton Upon] Railroad for Railroad operation purposes or transloading facilities, and further to authorize the Select Board to take any and all actions and effect any and all documents to carry out the purposes of this article.”

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard read the warrant article, then read an amended version that added the word “and” after “for the use of the public.” Special counsel Mina Makarioius of Anderson and Kreiger said the word was added “to clarify that, in addition to the conservation purposes, the land may someday, in the future, be needed for water resources and this clarifies it so that you don’t have this issue decades down the road, or whatever [timeframe] down the road, to withdraw water for the town’s purposes.”

While speaking in support of the motion, Hazard told vot-

ers the town has (1) secured new special counsel in this matter to review the town’s options (they contend the town can acquire the land by eminent domain); (2) set up a special donation account to accept funds to help the town pay its legal fees, adding “a donor has come forward to pay for the special counsel process to pursue the acquisition of 364 West Street;” and (3) the town plans to pursue all funding options to defray the cost of acquiring this land.

Hopedale Finance Committee Chair Christopher Hodges said his committee supported the article with a favorable recommendation and said, “The \$3.9 million that you see, that’s not agreeing to a value at this point, that will take time, we have months of negotiation and appraisals that are yet to happen.” He said the vote “does not directly raise anyone’s taxes at this point; there’s still a lot of steps to go, this is just the first one.”

There was one question from a voter. Resident James Abbruzzese asked if there is any contamination on the site that should concern the town.

Conservation Commission member David Guglielmi said the town will have more information after an appraisal is done “but certainly that would be a concern and something to be looked at at a later period when we get that information.”

A two-thirds vote was needed. Town Moderator Eugene Phillips called for a voice vote which produced a resounding “yay” and very few “nay”s. The motion was passed, the meeting was adjourned, and the audience broke into applause.

Hopedale Pizza Market liquor license reissued

Hopedale Pizza Market at 1 Menfi Way received a local liquor license at the beginning of June. Later that month, the license was reissued with amended hours of Sunday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

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Superintendent Crebase prepares for upcoming academic year

BY CAROLINE GORDON

After two years of dealing with the peak of the pandemic, Superintendent Karen Crebase said she is ready for an academic year filled with “normalcy, fun, and growth.”

Crebase, head of the Hopedale Public Schools, said, “I am excited for our staff to settle into a year in which they do not have to constantly shift gears and I am excited for students to have typical experiences with their peers.”

She explained that due to her staff and their “tireless efforts” the Hopedale school system has progressed through the pandemic with “grace” while still providing quality education to students.

She and her team, said the superintendent, have prepared for the upcoming school year by attending a retreat where the faculty set goals for the academic year, and a two-day workshop where district teacher-leaders worked on curriculum mapping.

Crebase said the schools are “most alive” when the students are present and that the energy of having staff, students, and families, “brings a smile” to her face.

She added, “I love greeting all of our students in the parking lots of their schools as they arrive on the first day. The kids are so happy to be back in school, and the parents always give appreciative waves.”

Students in grades 1 through 12 start back on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Kindergarten students begin the following day, Wednesday, Aug. 31.

HOPEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 2022-2023 CALENDAR

<p>August</p> <p>29 Teacher/Staff 1st Day</p> <p>30 Student 1st Day (Gr. 1-12) BBC Orientation Kindergarten Orientation BBC/Kindergarten 1st Day</p> <p>31</p> <p>September</p> <p>02 No School</p> <p>05 Labor Day- No School</p> <p>15 MES Back to School Night</p> <p>19-23 Nature's Classroom-Gr. 6</p> <p>22 JSHS Back to School Night</p> <p>29 BBC Curriculum Night</p>	<p>AUG/SEPT 2022 - 22</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>P</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S								28	P	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p>FEBRUARY 2023 - 15</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>E</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>17 Early Release 20-24 Winter Vacation</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S											1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	E	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
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<p>Daily Schedule</p> <p>Memorial Elementary School 8:15 am-2:30 pm</p> <p>Jr.-Sr. High School 7:40 am - 2:05 pm</p> <p>Emergencies</p> <p>Cancellations or modified schedules will be broadcast on local radio and television. Families will be notified via our alert system. If school is delayed, transportation will be delayed by one or two hours as announced. If school is dismissed early, times will be announced.</p>	<p>Early Release Schedule</p> <p>Memorial Elementary School Dismissed at 11:50 am</p> <p>Jr.-Sr. High School Dismissed at 11:15 am</p>
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HOP

Hopedale retail pot shops: "How much is enough?"

Select board chair says town should look at 'big picture'

By THERESA KNAPP

Marijuana businesses are highly interested in establishing roots in Hopedale.

The town has approved host community agreements (HCAs) for several establishments with more in the pipeline, and this has some local officials thinking about the town's strategy going forward.

"Overall, I look at this the way I look at a lot of issues in town...I feel like we should not piece-meal, say 'yes' to everyone automatically, and we should look at the big picture as to the direction we want to go in as a town," said Hopedale Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard at the board's June 27 meeting.

According to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, the state entity that licenses marijuana establishments, a host

community agreement "identifies the stipulations and responsibilities of both the municipality and the applicant or licensee."

The HCA is one of the first steps in a long process that includes CCC approval and extensive local government permitting. The CCC has no authority over local host community agreements.

To date, Hopedale has HCAs for five businesses:

- High Hopes, 1 Menfi Way, retailer
 - Caroline's Cannabis, 4 Charlesview Road, retailer
 - Green River Cannabis, TBD, retailer
 - Lifted Genetics, 6 Condon Way, cultivator
 - MACA, 2 Condon Way, cultivator
- There are also six companies



An October 2021 IG post from Caroline's Cannabis: "Very grateful to be entering Hopedale!" Photo: [instagram.com/carolines_cannabis/](https://www.instagram.com/carolines_cannabis/)

seeking HCAs, a few of which are already operating in town but hope to add additional services. These include:

Zoning change gets Green River Cannabis one step closer to cannabis retail sales

Town Administrator Diana Schindler told the Select Board at its June 27 meeting that the Planning Board approved the zoning change requested by the property owner of 150-156 Hartford Street where Green River Cannabis hopes to locate its marijuana retail store. Schindler said the location, which abuts Charlesview Road (a stone's throw away from Caroline's Cannabis), was changed from General Business A to Commercial Industrial.

Before Green River Cannabis could establish a retail shop in the plaza, Town Meeting would have to agree, with a two-thirds majority vote, to allow cannabis retail sales in that location by special permit.

- Blackstone Valley Naturals/Green Mountain C&C, 1 Rosenfeld Drive, cultivator and manufacturing
- Caroline's Bud Delivery, 4 Charlesview Road, courier
- Caroline's Cannabis, 4 Charlesview Road, manufacturing
- Lifted Genetics, 5 Condon Way, cultivator
- Cannabonics, 4 Rosenfeld Drive, courier and delivery
- O'Geez Cannabis Gummies, Charlesview Road, manufacturing

Hazard said, "How much is enough?" I think that's kind of the question being asked."

Hopedale currently does not have a limit on the number of cannabis retail establishments allowed in town; a limit would need to be approved by voters.

The Select Board agreed to seek a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss possible marijuana establishment zoning bylaw additions and/or amendments.

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Town boards discuss possible limits on retail marijuana establishments

By Theresa Knapp

On July 6, the Hopedale Select Board and Planning Board held a joint meeting to discuss ways the town can regulate marijuana establishments. Planning Board Chair Stephen Chaplin called the two-hour meeting "a spirited conversation."

Many issues were discussed including setting a quota for retail marijuana establishments; streamlining the local permitting process, possibly changing the special permitting process

to the Select Board; establishing a buffer zone around retail marijuana establishments; and setting a public hearing to discuss these issues.

Town Counsel Nicole Costanzo of KP Law said that, if the town bylaws do not expressly prohibit a type of marijuana use, then it must be allowed. "Under the statutes that regulate marijuana, uses are allowed unless expressly prohibited."

Costanzo offered the following options:

Prohibit specific uses al-

together; this requires a two-step process including a bylaw amendment and ballot question

Limit retail licenses to less than 20 percent of the town's liquor store licenses (Hopedale has seven); this requires a bylaw amendment and ballot question (any limitation above 20 percent requires a bylaw amendment but not a ballot question)

Limit number of cultivation establishments; requires a bylaw amendment only

Adopt an overlay district to regulate where establishments will locate (different types of

businesses could go in different overlay districts)

Change special permit granting to the Select Board which grants the Host Community Agreements

Expand the buffer zone around cultivation and manufacturing facilities

Costanzo said, "I do think that zoning bylaws regulating cultivation and product manufacturing are particularly

LIMITS

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Your Money, Your Independence

Overdue Change Coming To Massachusetts Estate Tax Laws

On July 15, the Massachusetts House unanimously passed a \$4.2 billion economic development bill that will have significant impacts on residents' wallets.

Lawmakers put a lot in the bill, including a \$500 million tax relief package which raises the child tax credit to \$310 per child (and eliminating cap), raises the rental deduction cap to \$4,000, and ups the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million.

Catch that last part? Let's review why it's important.

Estate tax is owed on net value of the estate of a deceased person before distribution to non-spousal heirs. Think real estate, investments, IRAs, small business, life insurance proceeds, personal property etc. minus liabilities.

For 2022, the federal estate tax exemption is \$12.06 million, meaning amounts MORE than \$12.06 million are subject to the federal estate tax unless otherwise excluded (i.e. gifting). For most, there's little concern of having a life's work of earning,



Glenn Brown

planning and saving being taxed upon death by the federal government.

Not the case with Massachusetts.

To begin, only 12 states in U.S. have estate taxes, with Oregon and Massachusetts currently at the lowest (worst) thresholds of \$1 million. Consider neighbor Connecticut is \$5.1M. Where

Massachusetts currently takes a dubious lead is once an estate is valued over \$1M, the entire amount is subject to a graduated tax rate starting 0.8% up to 16%. For example, at \$1,000,001 an estate is writing Massachusetts a ~\$36,500 check, at \$2M ~\$99,600, at \$3M ~\$182,000 and so on.

How quickly can one's net value (assets minus liabilities) estate exceed \$1 million? Consider the median single-family home sale price in Massachusetts hit \$590,000 in May, and it was higher in Middlesex County at \$800,000.

What now? Given changes were proposed by Governor Baker with bipartisan support in January and now part of a larger bill, it's expected to pass before legislation session ends July 31. More details to come, but we know the new Massachusetts estate threshold will start at \$2,000,001, with first \$2M no longer taxed.

Things to consider: **Know your net worth.** While grandma living in a Massachu-

setts house with no mortgage and a few CDs finally gets a pass, what if she also has investments held for years or a lakehouse?

And what of your net worth? Add up 401ks, life insurance and AD&D proceeds, small business equity, savings, real estate minus liabilities. Are you over \$2 million or will be in time?

Connect with an estate planning attorney. New laws and life events are opportune times to connect as well as provide an updated net worth and review process. Also remember, revocable living trusts bypass probate but not estate tax laws.

Plan to be agile in retirement. Connection to seasons, family and friends can be strong in Massachusetts. However,

proper planning can create alternatives for residency in 38 states and no longer deal with state estate tax (or 5% income tax either).

As a fiduciary, it's a responsibility to educate on the possibilities for those interested.

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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LIMITS

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important where you have concerns about odor and security."

Planning Board Chair Stephen Chaplin asked Costanzo's opinion on a citizen's petition before the Planning Board that asks the town to adopt a 1,000-foot buffer zone between retail marijuana establishments.

"I have not seen that. We would have to look at those types of bylaws individually," she said. "If this 1,000-foot buffer requirement would effectively prohibit other establishments from locating in the areas that you have, then the Attorney General, when she's reviewing this, might look at this as an effective prohibition. You would need a ballot question in order to prohibit these establishments and likely that wouldn't be something that she would approve."

Costanzo suggested the town look at the areas in which the use is currently allowed and,

"if you take that measurement based on what you have already in existence if that would actually prohibit other establishments from locating and, if so, it's something that would likely be disapproved in my opinion."

While most officials in attendance agreed some changes

were necessary, Planning Board member Michael Costanza said the town has an established process that should be allowed to run its course.

Both boards agreed to continue the discussion and will meet again on August 3.



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How do we solve the problem with the town's tennis courts

By M.S. PHILLIPS

Back in the day the Hopedale town park and bath house was bustling during the summer months. Kids would go fishing, take swimming, and tennis lessons and even archery. The park still offers some of these great programs along with arts and crafts at the bandstand and fun field trips to the local movie theater, zoo and waterslides.

Our town park tennis courts not only benefit the residents and our summer tennis program, which started over 50 years ago, but they are also the only courts available to the high school tennis team.

For the past two decades families could watch tennis matches at the town park and enjoy the success of both girls and boys tennis teams who went on to win many district championships and play in state championships. The boys team played in four Division 3 state finals in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 falling to powerhouse Weston each time and the girls have played in three Div.3 state finals falling to powerhouse Martha's Vineyard in 2015 & 2016 and to Manchester Essex in 2018.

Having kids participate in this summer program and learn to play at a young age has been the biggest foundation for the high school tennis teams success over the years. Some of these kids even continue to play in college.

Barry Gorman, a graduate of Hopedale High was the director of the Summer program for over 15 years, until he left to take on bigger role as head coach and wellness coordinator at Roger Williams University in 2015. Barry also took lessons as a kid in the late 90s and played tennis in high school and college.

Over 100 children and 30 adults participated in this popular and thriving program under his leadership with a very competitive, but fun round robin championship tournament in August.

It would be a shame if we lost this beloved program due to deteriorating courts.

Students who were coached by Gorman back when they were kids are now the tennis instructors of the current summer program.

For the past three years the high school tennis team hasn't been able to host any home

matches due to illegal lines and damaged courts. If you've visited the park recently or your child has participated in the park's summer program you've probably noticed the tennis courts are in horrible condition. It's really an embarrassment to our players and the town.

The courts have been in dire need of repair for several years due to poor drainage issues that continues to cause deep cracks in the asphalt along with heaving and buckling.

Heavy rain that runs off Freedom Street is a major problem and can sometimes flood the park and playground. The drainage problem needs to be addressed and repaired before any construction can begin on the courts.

Due to rising costs of asphalt and current freight costs with the pandemic each court could cost over \$100K to repair cracks, patch bonding, resurface, repaint, repair net post footings, and root intrusions in the asphalt. We would also replace the old green wood backboard that has been damaged from lacrosse balls and vandalism.

The town's first tennis courts were built in the early 1900s with a dirt surface. They were then refurbished with clay in 1947 and then in asphalt in 1975. The courts were resurfaced and repaired along with basic maintenance for many years.

Most of this information on the courts and summer program can be found on the time capsule of the park commission meeting minutes, See link below

https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf711/f/uploads/a_capsule_history_of_the_hopedale_park_commission.pdf

For the past year members of town parks department, highway department, town administrator and high school athletic director have worked together to tackle the issue. Along with researching grants, we hope to repair these courts, but it will take some time since the pandemic and inflation has caused delays with getting companies to give quotes, and delays in getting materials.

Mike Reynolds and the Parks Department are working with



Photos of damaged courts are attached along with a photo of college freshman, Eva Obrador, and high school senior Luke Tahmoush teaching kids in the summer tennis program.

the town administrator, Diana Schindler who will contact one of the feasibility study engineers that are currently working on the Hopedale St. intersection and Freedom St bridge to look into the town park's drainage and any other construction issues.

It makes sense to have this study completed before spending thousands of dollars to repair the court surfaces. Schindler has experience finding grants to help fund the survey which could cost up to \$40k

Many grants are available to towns including the PARC (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations Communities and the USTA Grant that our athletic director, Stephanie Ridolfi previously applied for back in 2020, but due to the pandemic, grants were put on hold.

We will apply for the USTA again once we can get quotes confirmed.

Jim Abbruzzese and members on the Recreational Ad-Hoc Field Committee and Open

Space & Recreation Planning committee are working to get the Open Space Plan back in fruition to be able to apply for these grants.

<https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/recreational-field-ad-hoc-committee>

We can also find grants with the CPA- Community Preservation Act and with the Central Mass. Regional Planning.

The Friends of Hopedale Park, a non-profit group is also being established again.

The Mendon Parks & Recreation Department has taken full advantage of these generous grants to fund their projects and renovate their tennis courts back in 2016.

If you would like to join the recreation planning committee and help find additional grants to repair our courts, please contact the the Parks Department at parks@hopedale-ma.gov

<https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/open-space-and-recreation-planning-committee>.

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Special 'donation account' accepting funds to help pay town's special legal fees

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale Town Counsel has confirmed town officials can set up a special donation account to help pay town legal fees.

The account was established, by unanimous vote, at a Select Board meeting on June 27.

Select Board member Brian Keyes suggested donors should indicate in their donation to what issue they want their donation to apply.

Keyes pressed a point he made in June to reveal the names of anyone who donates to this fund, referring specifically to the plaintiffs in the so-called "10-citizen lawsuit" in which a group of Hopedale taxpayers are suing

the town alleging town officials did not follow an October 2020 special town meeting directive to activate the town's right of first refusal on property located at 364 West Street. He asks that all donors be identified.

"There's obviously 10 or 11 citizens that are actively litigating two counts against the Town of Hopedale in appeal, I wouldn't expect to see a check from any of those 11 people. You can't sue us on one hand and donate to defend us on another on the same topic; I see a little bit of a conflict there," Keyes said.

"I would ask those 11 citizens if they want to donate money to have someone else do it for

them, give them the money and have them do it. I don't think that their 11 names should be on a check until that litigation's over. If those appeals are done and there's nothing going on, then I'm fine with it but I have a little bit of an issue with the conflict of interest...I don't think that that's an unreasonable ask."

At the town's Special Town Meeting on July 11, Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard reported the account had been created and "a donor has come forward to pay for the special counsel process to pursue the acquisition of 364 West Street."

The donor was not identified.

Hopedale Unitarian Parish to Host Benefit Event for Ukraine

On Saturday, Sept. 24, the Hopedale Unitarian Parish will be hosting an auction and benefit concert to support the relief efforts in Ukraine. The concert will be headlined by the Poucette-Dart Band, an American soft rock group that began in the 1970s in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Doors will open at 7pm and the charity event will end around 10pm. The Parish is located in the center of town at 65 Hopedale St.

From 7-8pm, there will be an auction in the Parish Hall, including Red Sox tickets, foursomes of golf at the Hopedale & Franklin Country Clubs, and Bobby Orr's signed autobiography. There will also be light snacks and beverages at the cash bar during this time. The concert will begin at 8pm in the Sanctuary of the church. Hopedale Unitarian Parish will cover all costs associated with the

event so that 100% of ticket sales will go to Sunflower of Peace, a local nonprofit that provides aid directly to Ukraine. Tickets to the event, including the auction and general admission seating to the concert, are \$30 and can be purchased at www.hopedaleunitarian.org.

The Poucette-Dart Band was a mainstay of album radio, a favorite on the college circuit, and became one of the busiest touring groups in the country, working with such acts as The Eagles, Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, and Journey, to name a few. Although the original band broke up in the 1980s, Jon Poucette-Dart has continued performing nationally and writing steadily to this day. Various members of the band have reunited and performed with him over the years. To learn more about the band, you can visit www.poucette-dart.com.

Sunflower of Peace, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Massachusetts, will receive 100% of ticket sales raised by the Hopedale Unitarian Parish. This will help fund humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, specifically mobilizing support and aid for Ukrainian orphans, internally displaced persons, and those most affected by the war. To learn more about this organization, visit www.sunflowerofpeace.com.

Please direct any questions to Hopedale Unitarian Parish's Event Coordinator, Tracy Anderson, at tracylanderson@verizon.net or 508-962-0235.

Jumpin' Juba Closes Out Summer Concert Series On Aug. 3

The last summer concert for 2022 will be on Wednesday, August 3 from 6:30-8:30pm. It features "Jumpin' Juba" who will entertain with New Orleans swamp rock, classic boogie woogie, and Memphis rock and roll. Rain date is Thursday.

DJ Mike will entertain the kids from 5:30-6:30 pm. Refreshments available are pizza, snacks, and drinks.

Signup for a free giveaway for a gift card to a local eatery. Drawing will be at 8pm and you must be present to win.



Hopedale building permit fees increased on July 1

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board unanimously approved an increase to building permit fees, effective July 1.

At the board's meeting on June 27, Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard said, "I'm pretty sure an adjustment was in order,

it's been forever."

Town Administrator Diana Schindler estimated the fees had not been increased since 2007.

The new building permit fee schedule was recommended by Building Commissioner Tim Aicardi and is available at <https://bit.ly/3OIDn5o>

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Bancroft Memorial Library

August Monthly Library News



Summer Reading Logs 2022 – Read Beyond the Beaten Path

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Thank You to Our Sponsors

We are grateful to so many individuals and companies for their generous support of the 2022 Summer Reading Program. Special thanks to the Hopedale Cultural Council, The Friends of the Hopedale Library, Hopedale Fire Department, Hopedale Police

Department, Hopedale Highway Department, The Hopedale Foundation, the Hopedale Council on Aging, OverDrive, An Unlikely Story Bookstore & Cafe, Best Buy (Milford), Milford Ace Hardware, Story Land, Bass Pro Shops, Target, American Girl, Topsfield Fair “Read and Win” Program, Home Depot, Massachusetts Library System, Boston Bruins, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Tufts Paws for People, AaTs (Animal Assisted Therapy Services), and the amazing residents and supporters of the Hopedale community.

ONGOING MONTHLY LIBRARY EVENTS

Helen Symonds Book Group

The Helen Symonds Book Group will not meet in August. The group will meet again on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 1pm to discuss Hour of the Witch by Chris Bohjalian. “A resourceful Puritan woman in 1662 Boston plots to escape a violent marriage only to find herself targeted by her disapproving and superstitious neighbors for failing to save a child’s life.” – CW MARS Catalog

Wednesday Needlework Group

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

NEWS FROM THE MARJORIE HATTERSLEY CHILDREN’S ROOM

YA Coloring Club

Come in on Monday, Aug. 1, at 2pm to relax and color with your friends! Grades 5+.

Summer Story Hour with Mrs. Kraimer

Join Mrs. Kraimer for stories, songs, and crafts on Tuesday, Aug. 2 at 3pm! Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Ages 3+

Disney Movie Matinee

Enjoy a Disney movie at the

Library on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 3pm. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Ages 4+

Thursday Morning Reading Buddies (through August 11)

Grades 3&4 and Hopedale Seniors 10:30-11:15am

Grades 1&2 and Hopedale Teens 11:30am-12:30pm

Each “Reading Buddies” team will select a special book to share, and will meet each week to read together, discuss the book, and share stories. Reading Buddies will also have an opportunity to “Read to a Therapy Dog” as part of the program. If you are interested in being a part of a “Reading Buddies” Team (Seniors, Teens or Students in Grades 1 -4), please call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Hopedale Library.

Talewise presents Pirates: Lost at Sea

Don’t miss your chance to experience an interactive nautical tale about a crew of quirky pirates marooned on a desert island — with a refreshing splash of science on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 2pm! This event is sponsored by The Friends of the Hopedale Library. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Ages 4+

Tween/Teen Make & Take Craft - Zen Garden

Create a Zen garden on Friday, August 5 from 10:30am-12:30pm! Ages 11+

Kids Make & Take Craft - Boat

Drop in on Saturday, Aug. 6 to make a boat from 10:30am-

12:30pm! Ages 3-10

Build a Bird Feeder

Bring a hammer and make a bird feeder on Monday, Aug. 8 at 5pm. Thank you to Home Depot for donating the materials. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Ages 12+

Craft Fun!

We are opening up our craft closets. What can you make? Join us on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 2pm. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Grades 2+

Cracklin’ Campfire Tales & Tunes

It’s a crowd-pleasing, classic show with Mary Jo Maichack on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 2pm. Enjoy folktales, tunes, and interactive fun! This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hopedale Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency and The Friends of the Hopedale Library. Call Mrs. Kraimer to register at (508)634-2209. Ages 3+

School Summer Reading Assignments

Have you completed your summer reading for school yet? If not, just stop by the Bancroft Memorial Library and Library staff will be happy to assist you with finding or selecting the materials that you need. And we can always request titles from other libraries in our network as well!

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

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Cultural Council News

Day in the Park Volunteers

The Hopedale Cultural Council is busy preparing for the 42nd Day in the Park on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Our council is small so we are dependent on volunteers to assist us on that day. We especially need help for set-up from 7:30- 10am, and cleanup at 4pm.

Please contact Billi Manning, Chairperson. 508-478-0929

Day in the Park Vendor Applications

Applications are now available for the 42nd Hopedale Day in the Park on Saturday, September 17, 2022. All crafters, Hopedale businesses, and Hopedale residents with businesses are invited to participate.

For applications see the town website: www.Hopedale-Ma.gov/Hopedale-Cultural-Council

Help the Hopedale Council On Aging Celebrate 51 Years of Serving Hopedale's Seniors

This October the Senior Center will host an overdue town-wide celebration for the COA in recognition of 51 years of service. We will host an "Open House" at the Sr. Center along with a separate "Artisan/Hobby Fair" that will showcase the talents and hobbies of some gifted seniors in our community.

You can help us make this event extra special. We are seeking artisans of varied crafts who would love to share their talents at this event. Please contact Carole Mullen at 508-634-2208 for further details.

Free Anxiety and Stress Reduction Classes

The Senior Center is offering free classes that combine Yoga and meditation.

Anxiety Management classes will teach you easy and fun ways to help you feel better and look at situations in new ways.

There are six sessions that are a little over an hour each. The classes will explain what anxiety is, how it affects your thoughts and body and how anxiety affects the ways you relate to other people.

The dates of the classes will be determined. At least 12 participants are needed to hold classes. This is a continuation of the posting from the April 2022 newsletter. Call the Senior Center for sign-up at 508-634-2208.

Select Board appoints Call Firefighter Candidate, makes annual appointments

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meetings on June 27, the Hopedale Select Board appointed Alec Kaminski-Miller as Call Firefighter Candidate effective June 27, 2022.

On July 6, the board made the following annual appointments:

- Stephen Johnson, Assistant Building Inspector
- Timothy Aicardi, Building Commissioner & Zoning Enforcement Officer
- Lisa Pedroli, Burial Agent
- Mario Sousa Jr, Constable
- Jeffrey Ross, Deputy Wiring Inspector
- Tom Diage, Emergency Management Director
- Joseph Zacchilli, Gas & Plumbing Assistant Inspector
- John Fontana, Gas & Plumbing Inspector
- Daniel Soares, On Call Assistant Wiring Inspector
- Donna Lampere, Parking Fines Clerk
- Lisa Pedroli, Public Records Access Officer
- KP Law, Town Counsel
- Patrick Morris, Veterans' Agent
- Joseph Scanzaroli, Wiring Inspector

Hopedale Town News now has its own Facebook page!

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




Sha'arei Shalom

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – now enrolling grades K-7

Sha'arei Shalom is a member-driven Jewish congregation serving the Greater Metrowest area. We offer a diverse congregation that understands the demands of busy families, the needs of seniors, and is affordable.


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Living Healthy

A Look at EVO Visian ICL

An Evolution In Visual Freedom

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

Myopia (or nearsightedness) is the most common ocular disorder worldwide and its prevalence is increasing rapidly. An estimated 30% of the world's population, or 2.6 billion people, have myopia and this number is projected to rise to 50% of the global population by the year 2050. For many people, contact lenses and eyeglasses can be inhibiting, especially for those who seek visual freedom. While available in Europe, Asia, and the rest of the world, the EVO Visian ICL lens is now FDA approved in the United States and can offer a new solution for those who seek sharp, clear vision and want to break free from the limitations and inconveniences of contact lenses or eyeglasses. Over 1,000,000 EVO ICL lenses

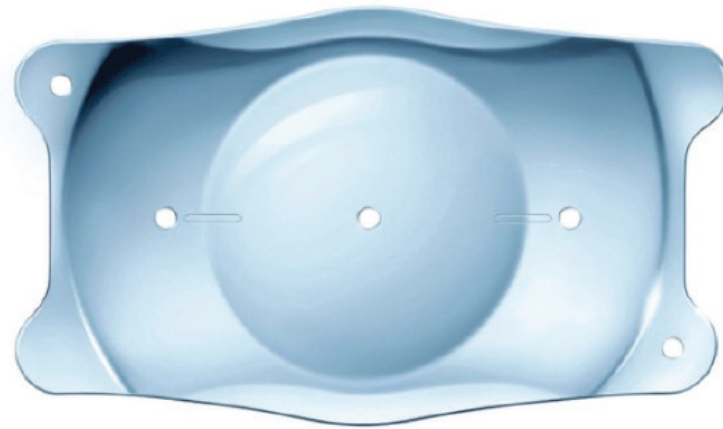
have been implanted around the world. If you are seeking a vision solution that will put an end to the hassle and ongoing cost of glasses and contact lenses, the EVO ICL may be right for you.

What is the EVO ICL?

EVO ICL is a microscopic lens made of collagen that is implanted by a surgeon so you can reduce your dependence on glasses and contacts. The ICL (implantable collamer lens) is made of collagen so you can't feel it or see it in the mirror, and it's in sync with your body chemistry so your immune system doesn't even know it's there. EVO ICL's are for those who want to see better without glasses and contacts, even if they've been told they can't have LASIK. Not a LASIK candidate? Not a problem for EVO.

EVO ICL Vision

The EVO procedure is different from other vision correction options, like LASIK. The EVO lens is additive; meaning, it is added to the eye and doesn't remove corneal tissue. The EVO procedure involves implanting (or adding) a biocompatible, flexible lens made from Collamer® into the eye between the iris (colored part of the eye) and the natural lens to correct vision. The EVO lens works in harmony with the natural eye while delivering sharp, clear vision, excellent night vision, UV protection, and does not cause dry eye syndrome. The EVO Visian ICL lens can permanently correct vision without removing corneal tissue and, if desired, is removable by your surgeon- so reversible- for added peace of mind. Compare this to LASIK which is not reversible. It gives the patient flexibility for the future while helping to eliminate



dependency on glasses and contact lenses now.

In the US FDA study the average vision result was better than 20/20. Some would call that "supervision". An astounding 99.4% of patients in a recent study said they would do it all over again, no regrets. It's the night vision quality and contrast sensitivity that really sets the EVO ICL family of lenses apart. Most patients typically say this is the best vision they've ever had, so there's no compromise in vision clarity just to be able to see without glasses and contacts. On average, the unaided vision with EVO ICL is demonstrably better than what was produced with glasses and contacts in the past. LASIK may have more name recognition, but EVO is a great solution for patients who have thin corneas, dry eyes, and/or high levels of nearsightedness or who simply do not want to risk the side effects of LASIK, like dry eyes, night vision problems and risky weakening and thinning of the cornea.

moderate to severe nearsightedness

- Quick procedure; little down time
- Proven, time-tested procedure for more than a decade

Who is a good candidate?


The EVO Visian ICL Lens (EVO) ideal candidates are between the age of 21 to 45 and have moderate to high nearsightedness. It can safely and effectively correct nearsightedness between -3.0 D to -15.0 D, the reduction in nearsightedness up to -20.0 D and treatment of astigmatism from 1.0 D to 4.0 D. If you have nearsightedness within these ranges, EVO Visian ICL surgery may improve your distance vision without eyeglasses or contact lenses.

How it works


The EVO Visian ICL lens is made from Collamer, a collagen co-polymer that is proprietary to STAAR Surgical. Collamer is biocompatible, stable, and flexible, thus making it an ideal lens material for the eye. The EVO Visian ICL lens is slightly smaller than a typical contact lens and is implanted in the eye between the iris (colored part of the eye) and the natural lens to correct vision. The EVO Visian ICL procedure is a 12-minute outpatient procedure per eye with quick recovery and little downtime typically. The EVO Visian ICL procedure does not require the removal of any corneal tissue thus it is even suitable for patients with thin cor-

EVO Visian ICL Benefits Can Include:


- Sharp, clear vision
- Works in harmony with natural eye
- Removable no reversible if there is a need to reverse
- No removal of any cornea tissue so corneal weakening like LASIK
- Excellent night vision
- UV protection
- Does not cause dry eye syndrome
- Great for thin corneas
- Option for patients with




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Hopedale Youth Baseball 10 U Team Wins Tournament

Ninety degree heat couldn't slow down Hopedale Youth Baseball's 10U Team from capturing their second consecutive Medway Tondorf Tournament Championship. The team went undefeated during tournament play at 10-0, then beat Ashland in the semi Finals, and went on to beat Medway 2 game to 0 to complete a perfect season at 13-0.

Hopedale relied heavily on their defense, pitching, and timely hitting throughout the tournament to beat all other teams from surrounding communities.

During the Championship series against Medway, Hopedale leaned heavily on the hitting and strong pitching by Colin Johns, Calvin Mandeville, Nolan Vaillette, and Griffin Dalpe. Mat-

thew Goldman provided the power, with a laser-show triple to the fence along with three RBI's. Trey Holterhoff provided amazing plays at second base throughout the Championship. Cam LaPointe with an incredible throw from centerfield to home to knock down a potential critical run for Medway. Team contributions made by Jaxen Whyte (scored winning run in game 1), Owen Worthington, Teddy Hodgdon, Sam Catalogna, & Mitchell Daelhousen throughout the tournament to round out the team.

Coaches Marc Goldman, Scott Mandeville, and Russ Dalpe asked a lot from the players during their practice sessions, all geared to make them better ball players and better kids.

"We emphasized the same

fundamentals every practice, so when it was time for the games, they knew exactly what to do for each baseball situation, and it paid off." said Marc Goldman, "We also spent time talking about how to act on the field, that you represent yourself, your parents, and Hopedale – so team rules included no throwing of bats/helmets, no complaining to the umpire, and no comments about the other team – tried to make it all positive thoughts on the field and off – if you fail, which you do in baseball, what can you do better next time."

The Team also implemented what they deemed to be their favorite play – named the 'bacon



play' - The catcher, Matty G, would fire to first base (Dalpe) to try and pick off a player leading too far – it worked several times during the tournament – no team

took big leads once they played Hopedale again, they not only feared the bacon, but the Team. Lets go Hopedale.

8 Medals and Top 10 Finishes at SkillsUSA National Competition

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students proved their vocational-technical ability at the 58th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Ga., June 20-24. The event is the world's largest showcase of career and technical education students.

The highlight of the conference is the SkillsUSA Championships, where more than 6,500 outstanding career and techni-

cal education students – all state contest winners from across the nation – compete in 108 hands-on skill and leadership competitions. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts.

In the third and final stage of the SkillsUSA competition series, BVT had 27 students

compete with impressive results. Once again, the student competitors demonstrated their career-technical expertise and proudly claimed seven gold and one bronze medal. Additionally, their four National Voting Delegates successfully campaigned for Hunter Claffin, who was elected to serve as a National Officer for the 2022-2023 school year. Also, all contestants who medaled or met a threshold contest score for their event as an indicator of pro-

ficiency were awarded Skill Point Certificates.

"Our students continually strive to perfect the skills needed to compete against the best vocational-technical students in the SkillsUSA District, State, and National Championships," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. "Our competitors are a highly motivated local contingent that successfully competed against the top peers from the likes of Michigan, Ohio, and

Texas."

The following students from BVT placed in the top 10 at the 2022 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference Championships and earned Skill Point Certificates. More details are available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

Hopedale
National Voting Delegate: Camila Ramirez

EYES

continued from page 10

neas. Following the procedure, many patients notice an immediate improvement in vision.

Global history

While the EVO Visian ICL lens is new in the US market, it has been approved and marketed throughout Europe, Asia, and the rest of the world. Over 1,000,000 EVO ICL lenses have been implanted around the world.

About us

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are differ-

ent. 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. Dr. Kaldawy is an experienced surgeon who has performed over 20,000 intraocular surgeries. We are happy to offer you this implant if you are a good candidate and if your glasses prescription starts at -3.00 Diopters. We believe this implant is a great alternative to LASIK even at lower refractive errors. A real evolution in visual freedom. Choosing EVO ICL may be one of the best decisions you will make in your life. Call for an appointment.

For more details, see our ad on page 10.

Doughty Best Choice for Governor

Our state is facing some serious problems including high cost of living exacerbated by inflation, an ailing MBTA system, rising crime rates, businesses leaving the state, and declining schools. We need a governor who will put aside politics and put people first. That person is fiscally conservative outsider Chris Doughty.

He is not a professional politician. Chris has spent a lifetime creating jobs, not worrying about the next election. He is the only job creator in the race. For more than three decades he has worked to build businesses that provide good jobs, while juggling being a hands-on dad for his six children and serving in the community.

Doughty has overseen the expansion of Capstan Industries from its initial startup of a few dozen employees to become, at its peak, a large multinational manufacturer. As a business owner and job creator, he dealt with all kinds of challenges — from low-cost international imports to government regulation. He has worked hard to make his company a place people were proud to work.



Doughty graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.S. in economics and received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is well qualified to be our Governor.

But, what will Doughty do for you? As he likes to say, "You will have more dough with Doughty."

Doughty was the first candidate to call for the suspension of the gas tax to help ease the pain at the pump. His plan is to suspend the gas tax until the price of gas drops below \$3.70 per gallon.

"The state has the funds, so there is no reason that the State House cannot help the hard working taxpayers by immediately suspending the gas tax. As the next Governor, we will be proactive in responding to crises," said Doughty.

Doughty wants to end the Commonwealth's reputation of being "Taxachusetts" and reduce



taxes more than Bill Weld did as Governor. This will make our state more competitive for attracting new businesses so that we can grow jobs and wages.

Like you, Doughty opposes licenses for illegal immigrants. But, he knows that the true problem is that Massachusetts is a magnet state. As our next Governor, he will strengthen verification of applications for public assistance so only the truly needy and legal residents receive benefits.

As an experienced job creator, Doughty has a small business bill of rights plan to support those who create the majority of new jobs in our state.

"As a business owner, I have worked hard to always comply



with new regulations, but it has not been easy. Creating jobs and meeting a payroll is not for the faint of heart. State government should be advocates and partners with our local businesses so the Commonwealth can create more jobs and raise wages. We do that by encouraging entrepreneurship and small businesses that are the backbone of our economy," said Doughty.

As a father and grandfather, Chris Doughty knows that education is the heart of our Commonwealth and that we need to provide the best educational opportunities for the next generation. Our state is a national leader in education at all levels but it

is often uneven in its availability. Doughty will work to ensure parents can access the very best education for their children. The equation is simple: high expectations, a strong curriculum, excellent teachers, and empowered parents.

We can count on Chris Doughty to make Massachusetts affordable again. To see more details on his small business bill of rights and other issues visit ChrisforMA.com. Chris would be honored to have your vote in the GOP Primary on September 6th.

This article is Paid for by Committee to Elect Chris Doughty

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Sports

One More Chance To Play Lacrosse before Graduating

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Brayden Kelleher considered himself a soccer guy, one who originally began playing in middle school and whenever he could during the spring.

While in high school at Holliston, he got involved in lacrosse where he played attack and midfielder for the Panthers, but eventually came to the Hopedale Junior Senior High School.

At Hopedale he wanted to continue playing lacrosse, but the school didn't have a boys' program. As a junior there were about five lacrosse players who were allowed to play on a co-op team with Milford, but it didn't last that long and eventually the team, as far as Hopedale players, was dissolved. Kelleher found out that he would be without a lacrosse team to play for coming into his senior year.

"We were told that Milford couldn't co-op with us anymore in the Hockomock League," Kelleher said. "Although we had fun, I wasn't all that crazy about going back to a co-op with Milford. It was a great group, but our season didn't go all that well, so it wasn't a big deal and really didn't bother me not having a team with them."

The Hopedale senior was prepared to work during the spring when he would have been playing lacrosse. Then about a week before the season was to get underway, he was notified by the Athletic Director that the school would be co-oping with neighboring Nipmuc.

"When I got the news, I was excited as I already knew 3 or 4 guys on the team as I had played with them during the summer on a club team," he said. "Of the five of us who played with Milford last year, 2 had graduated and 2 others decided not to play this year, leaving me as the only Hopedale player left."

Kelleher was excited to be able to play one more year of high school lacrosse before he graduated. Prior to hooking up with Milford last season, Hopedale was trying to co-op with Nipmuc, but things didn't work out.

Although he was having



fun playing for Nipmuc it was somewhat different than in the past as he had to travel to the neighboring school for practices and games.

"It was different. There really wasn't any Hopedale fans at the games because it wasn't our school," he said. "Still living in Holliston, it would take me about 30 minutes to get to Nipmuc, but 45-50 with traffic. I really didn't have much of anything else going on, so it wasn't that bad. It was much easier when school was going on."

Had he not had acquaintances on the Nipmuc team, Kelleher probably wouldn't have been so excited to join the Warriors on the lacrosse field during tryouts, especially being the only Hopedale athlete.

"I still would have tried out for the team if I didn't have any friends already there to see how things would have gone," he said. "Once I got to the tryouts, I had a good idea that I could make the squad and maybe even get to play, but at least I would be on the team."

Kelleher didn't really worry too much about earning a spot on the Warrior roster as he had played club lacrosse during the summer over the last 3 or 4 years with the Medway Coyotes and figures his talent would get him a spot.

Initially he would play attack and come off the bench. Eventually he was moved to midfielder as the Nipmuc Coach was still trying to figure things out as the season progressed.

"I personally didn't care

where I played," the Hopedale senior said. "In fact, with my soccer background I felt that I was better fitted to play midfielder as I had the stamina and the ability to run distance."

Once the season got underway Kelleher really didn't set any goals for himself, he just wanted to suit up and go out and play the game. He had one more season at playing lacrosse and he just wanted to have fun doing so.

Nipmuc earned themselves a spot in the Division 3 Tournament where they defeated Pem-

broke 10-5 in the first round but found themselves on the losing end to Norwell in the Round of 16.

Now that it's off to college in the Fall Kelleher doesn't see himself playing lacrosse anymore. He has maxed out in age to return to the Coyotes, but depending how things go he may try to play club soccer, but that will be it in terms of sports.

It may not have been with Hopedale, but at least Kelleher got to play one final season of lacrosse co-oping with Nipmuc.

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Senior Center News

The Hopedale Sr. Center is in Critical Need of a Van Driver

Drive our van! The Hopedale Sr. Center is looking for an experienced driver for our 8 passenger van. The schedule is as needed, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for approximately 4 hours each day. All driving is to local area towns. A paid training in general operation and CPR is required through the MWRTA (MetroWest Regional Transit Authority).

If you or anyone you know would like to help the Sr. Center continue this valued service, please contact Carole Mullen at (508)634-2208.

Meditation

Program for Stress Reduction

Instructor Faith Kennedy, will lead a series of four (4) classes focusing on meditation basics for stress reduction.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Aug. 11 & 25, Sept. 1 & 8

\$20.00 for the series. Sign-up

is required.

Call the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208.

News from SHINE

Medicare Preventive Services Did you know that Medicare Part B covers approximately two dozen preventive benefits, often at no or low cost to you? These benefits include services such as your flu and pneumonia shots, COVID shots, screenings for various health conditions (e.g., heart disease and certain types of cancer), and options to help you stop smoking.

Preventive care may help to keep you healthier by preventing illness or detecting medical conditions. For more information on covered preventive benefits, see Section 2 of the Medicare & You 2022 handbook at Medicare and You Handbook 2022 or call your local SHINE office with questions. Also, talk to your health care provider about how Medicare preventive services can help you.

SHINE

(Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) funded through the federal agency, Administration for Community Living and administered through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Certified counselors are available to assist you with questions about Medicare. Our services are free and unbiased: we are available to discuss all options related to Medicare and additional coverage, and we do not sell any plans.

To make an appointment; call your local senior center at (508)634-2208. A certified SHINE counselor will return your call. Counselors assist clients through in-person appointments, phone, video conferencing (such as Zoom or FaceTime), email, or postal mail. We also offer excellent resources online through our website at www.shinema.org, our Medicare 101 webinars, and our Facebook page: SHINE Central MA.

"READING BUDDIES" SUMMER READING 2022

As part of this year's Summer Reading Program, the Library and the COA will be collaborating on a special "Reading Buddies" program that will pair 3rd and 4th graders with a senior on Thursday mornings. Each "Reading Buddies" pair will select the stories that they would like to read together and will meet each week to talk about the book and share stories. When they have finished reading their first book, they can select another book together. Library staff will be available to suggest authors and titles and will provide discussion questions for the groups.

"Reading Buddies" will meet from 10:30 – 11:15 AM at the Library on July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4, and 11. "Reading Buddies" will meet for 6 consecutive weeks. As part of the program, "Reading Buddies" will also have an opportunity to read to several therapy dogs.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ms.

Carole Mullen at the COA (508) 634-2208.

DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS?

Each year thousands of Medicare beneficiaries reach a gap in their Medicare prescription drug plan, often referred to as the "donut hole".

If you reach that gap, you will see your prescription drug costs increase dramatically! Don't let this happen to you. Prescription Advantage can help.

Prescription Advantage is a state-sponsored program that supplements your Medicare drug plan to fill the gap.

For more information about Prescription Advantage, call the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208 or go to prescriptionadvantagemma.org.

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Senate President Karen Spilka to Host Autumn Senior Health and Wellness Fair

State Senate President Karen E. Spilka announced plans for her annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair to be held in-person in Framingham on Oct. 22, 2022. The free event will include fun and informative activities for older adults, as well as food, workshops, live music, vendors, and raffles.

"Each year, my Senior Health and Wellness Fair has been a great chance for me to get to know so many residents of our community and to connect them with resources, fun activities, and, most importantly, each other," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Last year, this event was held remotely to

keep everyone safe. Isolation has made connecting with one other even more important for residents of any age, but particularly for seniors. That's why I am so excited to be able to hold this event in-person again this year."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event hosted hundreds of seniors and older adults annually from across the MetroWest area and beyond.

Spilka's Senior Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled to be held in-person at Keefe Technical High School, at 750 Winter St., in Framingham, on Oct. 22. Residents are encouraged to call the office of Senate President Spilka at 617-722-1500 with questions.

6 weeks July 13 - August 17
Ann Lynch - Instructor
\$20.00 for entire series.
A fun class that fuses together movement, stretching, and strengthen all while having fun. This class alternates upper-body and lower body strength work with low-impact cardio exercises. It is designed to teach body awareness for fall pre-vention and exercises to increase cognitive function, balance all while improve strength and endurance. A chair handheld weight or tubing, and small ball are recommended. We will provide all equipment. Sign-up required.
Call (508)634-2208.

FREE MEMORY TRAINING CLASSES
Wednesdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5
Mendon Sr. Center
62 Providence St., Mendon
Our first series of classes was

well-received. The Hopedale Sr. will again partner with the Mendon Sr. Center and offer the UCLA Memory Training Program.
What is Memory Training?
Memory Training is a 4-session course teaching memory enhancing techniques.
What Will You Learn in Class?
• What memory is and how it works
• How to reduce tip of tongue moments
• How to reduce your memory burden
• Your learning style
• Better memory habits
• Strategies & techniques for some of the most common memory complaints
• How to remember names and faces
• How to remember where you put things
9 out of 10 participants report improvements in their memory!
These classes were developed

by the UCLA Longevity Center. Classes are free, informative and fun.
Please call the Hopedale Sr. Center to register for this program. (508)634-2208.

GENTLE YOGA
Meets at the Sr. Center Tuesdays, 9 - 10 am
Crystal Lee - Instructor
\$5.00 p.p.
You may be seated in a chair or on a mat . Try this wonderful movement class.

Tai Chi
Meets at Sr. Center Thursdays, 1 - 2 pm
Faith Kennedy - Instructor
\$5.00 p.p.
Gentle movement class that incorporates breathing and meditation.
Drop-ins welcome for these classes. Call the Hopedale Sr. Center at (508)643-2208 with any questions.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
7/18/2022	11 Haven Way	\$750,000
7/01/2022	14 Steel Road	\$1.55 mil
6/29/2022	198 Dutcher Street	\$680,000
6/29/2022	164 Laurelwood Drive	\$420,000
6/27/2022	23 Harmony Trail	\$700,000
6/24/2022	268 S Main Street	\$580,000
6/21/2022	222 West Street	\$580,000
6/21/2022	183 Dutcher Street	\$319,734
6/21/2022	5 Francis Road	\$840,000
6/16/2022	16 Steel Road	\$949,000

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



198 Dutcher Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$680,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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Thermometers




Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

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

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

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

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

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

tral Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

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

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

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster

Business spotlight

for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

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

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



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

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

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

gencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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



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