

Schindler resigns; Stock calls it “a colossal mistake”

Majority of Select Board members acknowledge hostile work environment

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Oct. 24, the Select Board accepted the resignation of Town Administrator Diana Schindler, effective Nov. 18, 2022.

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard read the letter of resignation in which Schindler said:

“While I’ve appreciated the opportunity to work in Hopedale since 2020, given that the Board didn’t fulfill its obligations regarding my contract by not setting goals and objectives for me to implement, it has made it impossible for my performance review and contract renewal to be administered fairly and effectively. Therefore, please accept my resignation from the position of Town Administrator effective 11/18/2022.”

Hazard apologized to Schindler for not expediting her evaluation, and also expressed frustration with the situation.

“I can’t help but want to thank [Select Board member] Brian Keyes and the band of persistent past and present town officials who have successfully created a hostile work environment for the Town Administrator; and I also wanted to thank them for impeding our efforts to get a future Town Administrator because I’m sure that any candidate that Googles Hopedale is just going to run in the other direction,” Hazard said.

When asked to respond, Keyes said, “I’m not even going to respond to that nonsense, to be honest with you,” then took issue with the Nov. 18 departure date, saying



Former Town Administrator Diana Schindler at Special Town Meeting on Nov. 14. Source: www.townhallstreams.com

Schindler’s original contract said she would stay in the position for 60 days after her resignation was submitted.

The board agreed to honor the Nov. 18 date.

Select Board member Bernie Stock, who previously served as Hopedale’s Town Administrator, said he was

RESIGNATION

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

By SUSAN MANNING

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

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

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

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

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

having a donation box.

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

“They are always gracious and give us a discount helping us buy more toys,” said LeeAnn DiPietro-polo, who, along with Meg Rivett, Tracy Griffin

Johnson and Laurie DiPietro-polo Reynolds, started the organization.

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

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

COMMUNITY

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RESIGNATION

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upset by the resignation and had tried to convince Schindler to stay.

Stock said, “This is a huge mistake by this town to let this talent get away. It is short-sighted, it is the political version of throwing the baby out in the bath water. And I do agree with you Madam Chair that there is a cult almost who has made it their task to - almost like a python kills something - it just kept squeezing and squeezing and squeezing almost on a daily basis creating an unbelievably horrible work culture in the Town Hall to force her out.”

Stock added, “This is a colos-



Hopedale Town Hall. Source: Wikipedia

sal mistake, letting this individual go, and let me just tell all of you out there that have danced over this resignation: Be careful what you wish for because the devil you know is better than the devil you don't.”

At the October meeting, the

board said the job description would be posted shortly. As of press time, it was not listed on the town website.

As of press time, the recording of the meeting was no longer available at www.town-hallstreams.com

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard read Schindler’s letter of resignation into the record:

Dear Select Board members,

While I’ve appreciated the opportunity to work in Hopedale since 2020, given that the Board didn’t fulfill its obligations regarding my contract by not setting goals and objectives for me to implement, it has made it impossible for my performance review and contract renewal to be administered fairly and effectively. Therefore, please accept my resignation from the position of Town Administrator effective 11/18/2022.

I’d like to thank the dedicated department heads, board and committee members, and the engaged constituents all who care so deeply for Hopedale, it is their collective efforts that continue to make Hopedale the most extraordinary town that it is.

I wish you the best.

Sincerely,
Diana Schindler

Source: Select Board meeting, 10-24-2022



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COMMUNITY

continued from page 1

nity enough,” said DiPietropolo.

One update to the program this year is the availability of donation boxes.

“We have added more drop box locations to make it as easy as possible for people to donate,” she said.

This year, in addition to the porch, gifts can be dropped off at:

These boxes will be placed at:

Hopedale Library
Hopedale Community House
Sacred Heart Church
Custom Home Realty Mendon
Salon Bella Vita Milford
Hopedale Memorial School
Main Groomers Medway
Bright Beginnings Center
Hopedale High School
The Coffee Bar Hopedale
Nutriferia Nutrition Milford

Helping organize and pack boxes this year are members of the Hopedale National Honor



society, who will help load cars and organize the porch. The Hopedale Junior Girl Scouts helped wrap donation boxes.

Also stepping up to the plate, the Hopedale Brownies will be having a Hot Chocolate Sale to raise money for Santa’s porch.

DiPietropolo also said fundraising was done throughout the fall.

“We will be at the 2022 Hopedale Downtown Stroll all day taking pictures in exchange

for donations. We also took Christmas pictures a couple weeks ago as a fundraiser. The truck picture below shows Tracy and I telling the kids how to pose,” she said.

Toys are distributed Tuesday and Thursday evenings in December to families who are clients of the food pantry. Last year, Santa’s Porch helped approximately 500 children.

“We hope to help even more this year,” said DiPietropolo.

She said, “This is the first year we have done an Amazon Wish List of popular items. If people aren’t sure what to get it makes it easy. We have kids of all ages groups. Sometimes the teens are tough so we are always looking for good gifts for them.”

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 23.

To donate, find the address of the porch, or learn more about Santa’s Porch, visit Facebook @santasporch or email santasporch@gmail.com. Donations can also be dropped off at the Hopedale Community House, 43 Hope St.



Hopedale Winter Stroll

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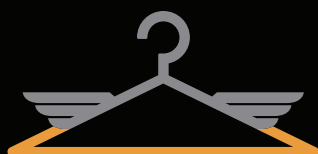
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Saturday: 8 am - 1 pm
Sunday: Closed

Special Town Meeting rejects buffer zone between marijuana establishments

Voters also add Juneteenth to town's legal holidays, and exempt Fire/EMS from civil service

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale held a special town meeting on Nov. 14 at which there were 14 articles on the warrant.

Residents rejected a citizen's petition to establish a buffer zone between marijuana establishments, and passed all other articles including (a) adding Juneteenth to the town's list of legal holidays, (b) voting to exempt the town's Fire/EMS from civil ser-

vice, and (c) transferring money to cover the salary of a new Town Planner. Two articles were not presented.

According to Town Moderator Gene Phillips, there were 63 people in attendance.

Here are the full results:

Article 1: Pay Prior Year Bills - UNANIMOUS

Article 2: Hopedale Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement - UNANIMOUS

Article 3: Capital Funding - passed over

Article 4: Board of Health Expenses - UNANIMOUS

Article 5: Police Detail Expenses - UNANIMOUS

Article 6: Health Insurance Expenses - UNANIMOUS

Article 7: Fire/EMS Department Salaries/Expenses - UNANIMOUS

Article 8: Add Juneteenth to

Legal Holidays - UNANIMOUS

Article 9: Fire/EMS Exempt from Civil Service - UNANIMOUS

Article 10: Amend Hopedale Zoning Bylaw for 14 parcels from General Business to Commercial - PASSED (60-3)

Article 11: Amend Hopedale Zoning Bylaw to create a marijuana overlay district - passed over Article 12: Reserve Fund Transfer to Planning Board Salaries to fund the newly-created position of Town Planner - UNANIMOUS

Article 13: Citizen's Petition to create a buffer zone between marijuana establishments - FAILED (standing vote: 20 in favor, 27 opposed)

Article 14: Citizen's Petition to alter the restriction against curbside transactions for a cannabis retailer so that Hopedale establishments would be allowed to conduct curbside transactions only when the state approves it - PASSED (one opposed)

To read the detailed warrant, visit www.hopedale-ma.gov or <https://bit.ly/3EDmt0f>

Christmas in the 1880s: Hopedale resident wins Christmas card contest

Lizzie Humphrey won \$500 for her greeting card entry

By THERESA KNAPP

Sometime in the 1880s, Hopedale resident Elizabeth Bullock Humphrey won a contest for her Christmas card creation. Her prize was \$500, which is equivalent to approximately \$14,608 today.

According to local historian Dan Malloy, who runs www.hope1842.com, Lizzie grew up in the Hopedale Community of

the 1840s and 1850s and later became a greeting card artist.

The sentiment on the winning Christmas card is:

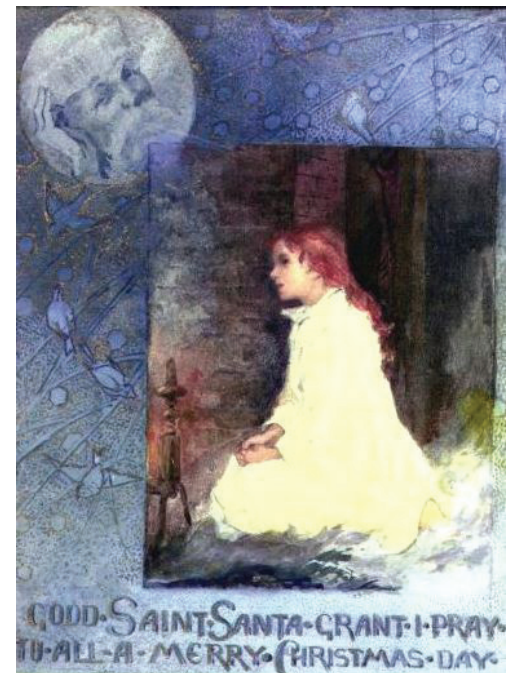
*Good Saint Santa Grant I Pray
To All A Merry Christmas Day*

Today, the card is on the wall of the director's office at the Bancroft Library which is no more than 50 feet from the

house in which Lizzie lived in the 1840s and 1850s. The house later became the part of Hope Street that connected Hopedale Street to the Hope Street bridge.

Malloy says that, written on the back of the picture is a note that reads, "This picture won for Miss Lizzie B. Humphrey a prize of five hundred dollars in a competitive contest."

To learn more about the Humphrey family (including their abolitionist work), and to see more of her greeting cards plus a photo of her childhood home, visit www.hope1842.com



A Christmas card created in the 1880s by then Hopedale resident Elizabeth "Lizzie" Humphrey for which she won \$500. She created greeting cards for a living. Source: www.hope1842.com

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Annual Downtown Winter Stroll Dec. 3

The 11th Annual Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, in downtown Hopedale.

The stroll takes place at many stops along Hopedale Street and Dutcher Street including many historic buildings such as the Draper Gym, Hopedale Community House, Bancroft Memorial Library, Hopedale Unitarian Church, Union Evangelical Church and the Little Red Shop Museum.

Multiple vendor locations will showcase work from local vintage vendors, hand makers, artisans, food vendors and mobile shops.

Many downtown businesses also take part in the stroll with special offers for customers & refreshments.

Past years have included performers setup along the route like live music at the park, costumed characters, outdoor movies and carolers roaming the route while our guests stroll from stop.

All of this ending in the long standing and popular town tradition of the tree lighting and Santa visit at the Hopedale Community House.

Visit the website for more information and to see pictures of previous years! www.friendsofhistorichopedale.com



Winter Parking Ban in Effect

The Town of Hopedale Winter Parking Ban is now in effect through April 1, 2023 between the hours of 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.



Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov/

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STREAM Fair Open To Students In Grades 2 To 5

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

If you know a child in grades two through five who enjoys science, technology, reading, engineering, anatomy and math (STREAM), check out the upcoming Growing Minds Fair. The fair will be held on Friday, Jan. 6, from 3-5 pm at Memorial School. Registration is open to any student between grades 2-5,

According to Madeline Hodgdon, a Hopedale high school student. Hodgdon, along with two classmates, Taralyn Moore and Thomas McSweeney, decided to organize the fair as part of their community service project as members of Hopedale DECA Club. “We are doing a Community Awareness project for the club, and we were given the opportunity to replicate the fair that had been put on for two years in a row prior to this one. Taralyn has had the pleasure of volunteering at both of these previous fairs, and her experience is what led us to gaining the right to plan this fair,” she said. According to Hodgdon, STREAM education is important because it provides students with vital skills like problem solving, collaboration, and

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When: January 6th from 3-5 pm

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knowledge of technology. This field will become more popular as the years progress and as technological occupations become more plentiful. “This fair is important because it seeks to introduce STREAM in a way that is appropriate for elementary-aged students, as well as foster interests in STREAM related subjects,” said Hodgdon. Children Across America is a nonprofit organization that is based in Milford, which seeks “to empower families and children in low-income communities” and “provide literacy support and preventative healthcare to underserved children in the United States.” In addition to Children Across America sponsoring the event, it will have a booth at the fair. Registration for the children is free. Hodgdon said the trio hopes to expand interest in the six subject areas covered in the fair. It is the first time it will be held in Hopedale; previously had been in Milford. “Our mission is to expand the knowledge of both STREAM and Children Across America through the use of this fair,” she said. For more information and to register, visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePVSiGbXL2lhBaGbAG1rf2dTQKWl7rVwUD4rWO28MpTkb2xw/viewform>

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While 2022 has been a challenging investment environment, it has been a fantastic year to see the benefits of executing financial plans over the past few years.

Were all outcomes perfect? No, and they never can be. See by seeking the perfect opportunity or waiting for the perfect time, one prevents the implemen-

tation of good improvements.

Consider the good done by executing on a remodel or outdoor project in 2017-19 or refinancing your mortgage and/or auto loans in 2020-21. More recently, how about deleveraging variable debt, establishing access to equity, raising emergency funds availability, modeling for variables such as inflation on expenses as well as remaining true to your risk tolerance.

Sure, it's easy to bemoan things that didn't go as planned with investments, like bonds not playing their role portfolio stability in 2022. But this too shall pass as Fed pivots away from their feverishly raising of interest rates next year. Can the same be said next year about an opportunity to lock in your mortgage under 3% or get your remodel done at 30-40% less?

There's still some good improvements you can do by year-end, if appropriate.

Roth Conversion. Have siz-

able Traditional IRAs? Think taxes are going up? You believe your holdings will rebound? With a strong handle on your sources of income and capital gains for 2022, consider modeling tax liability of different amounts converted to a Roth IRA.

Remember, unlike a few years ago, you can no longer undo a conversion via "recharacterization", so what's done is done.

Tax-Loss Harvesting. Sell investments for large gains earlier in the year? Sitting on sizable unrealized losses? Consider selling to realize tax-losses that can offset current year gains or be carried forward against future year gains as well as write off up to \$3,000 against ordinary income.

Recall the IRS wash-sale rule prohibits selling an investment for a loss and replacing it with the same or a "substantially identical" investment across all household portfolios 30 days before or after the sale. So if you are going to sell and buy back,

verify it's clean 30 days prior and then wait 31 days.

Last minute 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plan contributions. Ideally, you'd be at \$20,500 maximum contributions limits (\$27,000 if 50 or older). If not, many plans allow online changes up to 50% of wages. Have a year-end bonus? Can forgo a paycheck or two? Act quickly as plans require a pay cycle for updates to take effect.

And if you're late to impact 2022, then see how long you go with higher contributions to front load towards 2023 contributions limits of \$22,500 (\$30,000 if 50 or older).

Still waiting for perfect, instead of executing on the good?

Ok, there's this 30-year old "genius" that founded a crypto exchange in the Bahamas and issued their own coin for trading. In 3 years, he's worth \$25 billion and his firm's Marketing/PR includes Tom Brady, Stephen Curry, MLB, NBA, plus TV per-

sonalities call him a modern-day J.P. Morgan and has clout as 2nd largest US political donor in 2022.

Perfect, right?

Please note the sarcasm, and put the work in towards the good.

May you and those closest to you enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

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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Local results from state election

By THERESA KNAPP

Are you interested in how Hopedale voted in the Nov. 8 mid-term elections? If so, you can see the full list of results at www.hopedale-ma.gov or <https://bit.ly/3EDyYcd>.

According to the unofficial results, it appears 2,516 Hopedale residents cast a vote.

Hopedale tallies for the state's top offices include:

Healy & Driscoll, Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Andrea Joy Campbell, Attorney General

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of State

Deborah B. Goldberg, Treasurer

Local results for the ballot questions, a few of which were very close, include:

Question 1: Additional tax on income over \$1 million – NO (1201 to 1222)

Question 2: Regulation of

Dental Insurance – YES (1712 to 690)

Question 3: Expanded availability of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages – NO (1173 to 1206)

Question 4: Eligibility for Driver's Licenses – NO (1130 to 1289)

Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov

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Bancroft Memorial Library News

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747
Contact: Tricia Perry, Library Director 508-634-2209 tperry@cwmars.org
Holiday Hours
Sat., December 24 CLOSED
Mon., December 26 CLOSED
Sat., December 31 (open regular hours) 10am-2pm
Mon., January 2 CLOSED

Santa's Porch Drop Off Location

The Bancroft Memorial Library is now a drop off for Santa's Porch! Donations of new, unwrapped gifts will be accepted through Saturday, December 17. Need inspiration? Santa's Porch is always in need of gifts for teenagers, such as LED lights, makeup kits, Bluetooth speakers, curling irons, bath sets, etc.

Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll

The Library will be open from

12-6pm on Saturday, December 3 as part of the Winter Stroll with plenty of fun activities! Make a Pinecone Elf Craft, try our hot cocoa as part of the Cocoa Crawl, along with hot mulled cider (4-6pm) and don't forget to enter the free raffle for our "Cookery and Crafts" Basket!

Listen to the sounds of the season with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet, presented by the Friends of the Hopedale Library. This free

event will take place in the upstairs Reading Room at 2pm. To register, please sign up at the circulation desk or call 508-634-2209.

The Friends of the Hopedale Library will also be hosting their Holiday Book Sale at the Library from 12-6pm and invite you to participate in "A Book On Every Bed", based on a long-standing Icelandic tradition called Jolabokaflokkur, which encourages sharing the gift of reading with the special people in your life. With any book purchase during the Winter Stroll, you will receive a packet of hot cocoa, courtesy of the Friends to start your own "Book On Every Bed" tradition for your special holiday celebrations.

Intellectual Freedom: Fighting the Good Fight with Martin Garnar, PhD

On Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm, the Hopedale Unitarian Parish and The Friends of the Hopedale

Library invite you to join in a community conversation led by Martin Garnar, Director of the Amherst

College Library, Chair of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Editor of the 10th edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. Across the country there has been an overwhelming increase in the number of materials challenged in school districts and public libraries. Join us as we explore the themes of freedom of expression, the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice, and the rights of readers. To sign up, please call the Library at (508)634-2209.

2023 "One Book, One Town" Community Read (December 1 through March 22nd (World Water Day) will feature A Long Walk To Water by Linda Sue Park. A STORYWALK® on the Community House Lawn from December 5 - 23 will showcase The Water Princess (Written by Susan Verde, Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds).

Please support Hopedale Public

School Students in raising funds for Heifer International. Their goal is to raise \$750 to finance a solar-powered well that will allow families access to clean, life-sustaining water. Program is sponsored by the Hopedale Public Schools in partnership with the Friends of the Bancroft Memorial Library and other community organizations. Copies of the community read book, as well as companion books for younger readers will be available at the school and public libraries. Companion Books: Nya's Long Walk: A Step at a Time; The Water Princess; My Great-Grandmother's Gourd; and The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.

Ongoing Monthly Library Events

Helen Symonds Book Group: The Helen Symonds Book Group meets in the Library Program Room at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday

of every month. Everyone is welcome to join the group. If interested, please call the Library at (508)634-2209 to request a copy of the discussion book.

Join the Helen Symonds Book Discussion Group to discuss A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens on December 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm. We will get ready for the holiday season, by exploring this Christmas classic. Why did Dickens write this story and what are the messages for us in this book written in 1843?

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

News from the Marjorie

LIBRARY

continued on page 13



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DECEMBER 2022 - HOPEDALE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Move Grove & Sculpt 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise with Christine Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 1:00 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Fall Prevention Workshop 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Move Grove & Sculpt 1:00 pm Trim the Tree at the Sr. Center 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise with Christine Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Lunch @ Sr. Center 1:00 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Move Grove & Sculpt 12:00 pm Senior Center Holiday Party	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise with Christine Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 1:00 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Knitters' Group 10:00 am Move Groove & Sculpt No COA Board Meeting in December 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise with Christine Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	10:00 am Move Grove & Sculpt 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise with Christine Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have an upcoming event? Do you have a concern about things happening around town?

Email us at editor@hopedaletownnews.com and let us know!

Cultural Council to discuss grant allocations on Dec. 5

The Hopedale Cultural Council is scheduled to meet on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss this year's round of grant applications and allocations. Other agenda items include a review of the Summer Band Concert Series plus a review of the Day in the Park and to set a date for next year's event. For more information, including the Zoom link for the meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/3V67npJ>



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Fatima Shrine Festival Of Lights

Our Lady of Fatima Festival of Lights 2022 will be open Dec. 8 to 27. Join Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Holliston for the traditional Christmas lights as they prepare this Advent for the Christmas season. Hot chocolate, donuts, and more will be available. The lights are on from 5 to 9 PM every night. The event is wheelchair accessible, with a path that winds throughout the exhibit. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is located at 101 Summer St., Holliston. There is no charge for this event.

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Living Healthy

Glaucoma Treatment: DURYSTA

Commonly Asked Questions

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

Glaucoma is a condition that can damage our field of vision. It affects us when the pressure inside the eye is higher than what the eye can tolerate. Glaucoma is treatable with drops targeted at lowering the eye pressure. There are patients who have problems remembering to use the drops and sometimes the preservative in the drop cause irritation, redness and intolerance to the drops. In other instances, one can be traveling and forget to carry the eye drops during the trip. In those instances, a novel treatment using DURYSTA glaucoma implants can help manage the pressure while reducing or eliminating the need for drops.

What is Durysta?

Durysta is a breakthrough in the treatment of open-angle glaucoma and ocular hyper-

tension with FDA approval. Durysta (made by Allergan) will be a game-changer for those patients who have difficulty taking daily medicated eye drops for glaucoma because it frees patients from having to apply drops altogether.

How does Durysta work?

Durysta is the first biodegradable sustained-release implant that continuously delivers Bimatoprost, a prostaglandin analog, within the eye that helps reduce and maintain healthy eye pressure levels. The preservative-free medication is housed within a tiny rod-shaped cartridge that is inserted in the eye's anterior chamber by an ophthalmologist during a safe 5-minute office procedure.

The implant comes pre-loaded with 10 mcg of Bimatoprost in a single-use applicator that your ophthalmologist uses

DURYSTA™
(bimatoprost implant) 10 mcg

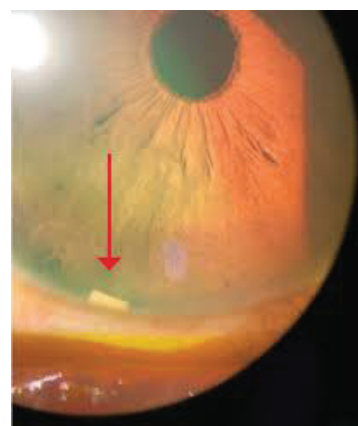
Sustained Release Glaucoma Implant

to inject the implant directly into the front side of your eye. This means that the drug delivery system is a one-time use sterile applicator used on you and you alone.

The bimatoprost implant is biodegradable and breaks down naturally over time, so you do not require another procedure to remove the delivery system. It simply dissolves and is eliminated by your body. In fact, most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels even after Durysta has broken down.

How long does Durysta last?

The great news for patients with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension is that the Durysta implant is designed to last up to 6 months. However,



most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels after Durysta has broken down. This means you'll continue to benefit from Durysta for months and sometimes a year or 2 later. Meanwhile, you'll be free from having to deal with inserting eye drops and worrying about whether the correct amount of medication actually got into your eye.

Who is a candidate for Durysta?

Durysta is indicated for people diagnosed with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. That said, not everyone is an ideal candidate for Durysta and it is contraindicated under the following circumstances:

- If you have an infection within or surrounding your eye
- If you have undergone a corneal transplant
- If you are diagnosed with corneal endothelial cell dystrophy
- If your posterior lens capsule is ruptured or absent
- If you are allergic to bimatoprost or to the components of the implant

What are the side effects of Durysta?

As with any medication, clinical trials have shown that some people can experience side effects from Durysta. However, the interesting thing about the Durysta trials was that patients who were randomized to receive Durysta actually experienced fewer side effects than the control group patients taking standard glaucoma eye drops.

It's highly unusual for a new medication to exhibit fewer side effects than the standard medicine it's being compared to, but that's exactly what happened with Durysta. The Durysta pa-

tients had fewer complaints and tolerated the medication better than the patients using traditional glaucoma eye drops. Fewer side effects and better eye pressure control make for a compelling argument to consider switching to Durysta.

Some adverse events for Durysta patients can include:

- Eye redness
- Eye irritation
- Eye pain
- A foreign body sensation within the eye
- Light sensitivity (photophobia)
- Blurred vision
- Headache
- Conjunctival hemorrhage
- Iritis
- Increased intraocular pressure

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Also, the safety of taking Durysta during pregnancy has not been studied.

Is Durysta for me?

If you have tried other treatments for glaucoma, including eye drops and they did not work, or If you've found eye drops are challenging or you can't use them as prescribed, contact us. Eye drops are not always the best option for every patient, and Durysta may be a better solution.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the area to offer Durysta. We perform the procedure in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford and closer to home. We can also offer the same in our procedure room in Franklin. With those centers available to you here in your backyard there is no reason to travel hours to have eye surgery and laser glaucoma surgery. If your eye provider is still recommending you travel far away to have eye surgery, we are available for a second opinion. We are proud to offer excellence in glaucoma management and surgery with world class outcomes and here is the great news: Closer to home than ever before!

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LIBRARY

continued from page 8

Hattersley Children's Room

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

Mother Goose: It's Mother Goose time! Enjoy stories, puppets, music, and rhymes on Thursday mornings at 10:30am (Dec 1, 8, & 15). Ages 2+

Homeschool Hangout!: Join homeschool families from the Hopedale area to learn, engage, and socialize on Tuesday mornings 11am-12pm. All ages invited!

Story Hour with Mrs. Kraimer: Stories, flannel boards, music, and crafts on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30pm (Dec 6 & 13)!

Ages 3-6
Colorful Stories: Listen to Crayon stories, make a craft, and decorate the walkway with chalk on Saturday, December 10 at 11am! Rain(snow) or shine! Ages 4+

Craft Challenge: Ready for a challenge? What can you make with a special, secret material and only 45 minutes on Thursday, December 15 at 3:30pm? Ages 6+

Holiday Bookmark: Stop by the Library the week of December 19 to check out a holiday book and make a holiday bookmark!

Lego Challenge: Embrace the Lego Challenge on Tuesday, December 27 at 2pm! All ages

Interactive Rudolph Movie Fun: Join the fun and have an interactive experience with the movie, Rudolph the Red-Nosed

Reindeer, on Wednesday, December 28 at 3pm. Ages 4+

Game Day: Play a board game at the Library on Thursday, December 29 at 2pm. We have over 30 games from which to choose! Ages 4+

Good Neighbor Mitten Tree: We invite our generous patrons to donate handmade or newly purchased hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to be given to the Milford Food Pantry and the MA National Guard, who will distribute the donations to military families. Please add your name to one of the holiday angels decorating our tree, along with your donation. You can make this winter a bit warmer for someone! Donations will be collected until December 21. Please contact Mrs. Kraimer (508)634-

2209 with any questions.

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at www.wowbrary.org to discover the Library's new-

est books, movies and music. The library webpage is <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.

Select Board makes appointments, accepts resignations

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meetings on Oct. 24 and Nov. 14, the Hopedale Select Board made the following appointments:

Diane (Dee) Hughes to the Cultural Council (term expires 6/30/2025)

The board also:
Accepted the resignation of Christopher Hodgens, Sr. from Zoning Board of Appeals, effective 10/24/2022; and

Accepted the resignation of Town Administrator Diana Schindler, effective 11/18/2022.

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Sports

Hopedale's One And Only Football Player

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Having grown up in Milford, Marcus Waldo was always able to play Pop Warner Football for his home town.

Despite living in Milford, his parents decided that the Hopedale School System was better suited for their family. Unfortunately, by the time Marcus got to High School he noticed that the football program was a co-op with Blackstone Millville Regional.

"I loved the game and being a running back. I loved getting hit and getting right back up," Waldo said. "It didn't bother me that Hopedale didn't have their own football team, I was going to do what I needed to play for BMR."

Waldo noted that he never considered not trying out for the co-op team because he loved the sport so much and would do whatever it took.

According to BMR football coach Joshua Euglow, the co-op has been in existence with Hopedale for about eight years. When things first started, Hopedale made up about one third of the team, but over the years the numbers have dwindled.

One of the most difficult tasks at hand facing Waldo was getting from the Hopedale High School to BMR every day for practice. That's where his mother came in.

"Not having a Pop Warner program in Hopedale, a lot of kids didn't grow up playing football so there was not that much interest on the high school level,

so we had a co-op team," he said. "While it was tough being one of only a handful of Hopedale students playing, it was tougher

of his new teammates, and it was the Hopedale players that helped him get through it. Many a times he was doing drills by himself

This year Waldo was strictly a varsity athlete for the Chargers and while BMR just barely missed out on the playoffs, he felt

two other running backs on the BMR squad and all three runners get equal opportunity to carry the pigskin.



and games the first few years."

Now that he is a junior, things are a little easier as he drives himself

During his freshman season, Waldo was unfamiliar with a lot

on my mom. She had to pick me up and drive me 20 minutes to BMR for practices

and really had no one to talk to that first year.

Upon coming back for his sophomore campaign with the Chargers, he was he was delegated to both the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams throughout the season. He played safety in his first varsity game and while it was great to be on the field with the team, he would much rather prefer playing running back; a position that comes easier to him than safety.

that the team had themselves a decent year.

Although BMR was successful this season, the Hopedale athlete was unsure of his stats (He rushed for 248 yards for a 4.0 average per carry and scored 6 td's, 3 rushing and 3 receiving and posted one interception).

"I'm not one to think about my stats," Waldo said. "I just want to help my team win while playing a game that I love."

Waldo noted that there are

"Our running backs all get an equal amount of touches," the BMR Coach said. "Marcus brings balance to our offense. Last year he was pretty much a second stringer, this year he's caught up and we have a complete offense."

Euglow went on to say that the junior Hopedale back is an elusive runner and although small in size, he runs hard and is quick. He also reads the field well while navigating it.

With this season just about in the record books, Waldo will have the opportunity to play one more season with the Chargers next year and then it's off to college, where he may or may not elect to pursue football.

"College – I haven't really thought about it too much. I guess it'll all depend on how my senior season goes, but right now it's still too early," he said.

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Select Board updates appraised value in 364 West Street Order of Taking

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Oct. 24, the Select Board voted once again to proceed with an Order of Taking for land at 364 West Street as instructed by town meeting in July. “This is an action we take every month to renew that action until we hear from the judge on our court proceedings,” explained Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard.

The land in question is part of legal proceedings between the town and the Grafton & Upton Railroad. The board also amended the appraised value in the Order of Taking from \$3.9 million, the value voted at town meeting, to the latest appraised value of \$4.4 million. Mina Makarious, the attorney representing the town in this matter, explained, “The appropriation is not changing, absent a further town meeting vote. The amount that would be awarded in a taking would be changing, but the [\$500,000] difference would have to be made up with other funds.” Town officials said another funding source has been identified to cover the \$500,000 difference.

Real Estate Corner



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Tax Credit Program Applications Available at the Hopedale Council on Aging



Effective November 1, 2022 applications are available for the Sr. Citizen Real Estate Tax Credit Program. This highly successful program is open to seniors age sixty (60) and older who reside in their Hopedale homes and pay real estate taxes to the town of Hopedale. Qualified program participants work in various town departments. In lieu of pay, seniors who complete the required 84 hours of service will receive a \$1000.00 real estate tax credit (minus required taxes and withholdings). Please note that there are a limited number of positions. The Tax Credit Policy can be found online on the Town of Hopedale’s Council on Aging Department Webpage. Applications are available at the Hopedale Senior Center. **Deadline for applications is December 19, 2022.**



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