

# localtownpages Hopedale

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 142  
SPRINGFIELD, MA

Postal Customer  
Local

Vol. 8 No. 10

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

January 2023

## Three generations dance The Nutcracker

By THERESA KNAPP

Paula Cerulli Lock of Hopedale has been dancing for more than 60 years. She started when she was seven years old and has not stopped since.

Cerulli-Lock, 68, spent many years sharing her love of dance, both personally and professionally. She has taught dance at various levels and she has danced in various productions all over New England.

In December, she performed once again in The Nutcracker, produced by Miss Georgia Deane's School of Dance in Milford, along with her husband, daughter, and grandchildren.

"My grandson Ryan Croeber, age 9, played the Lead Fritz and a Mouse; my granddaughter Kailyn Croeber, age 12, played a Party Girl,



Three generations performed together in the 2022 production of The Nutcracker produced by Miss Georgia Deane's School of Dance in Milford. Pictured here are Paula Cerulli Lock and Douglas Lock of Hopedale; daughter and grandchildren Stacey, Ryan and Kailyn Croeber of Milford. Courtesy photo.

**NUTCRACKER**  
*continued on page 2*

## Keyes files complaint against fellow board member, threatens litigation

By THERESA KNAPP

Select Board member Brian Keyes has filed a complaint against Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard regarding comments she made at the board's Oct. 24 meeting about the resignation of former Town Administrator Diana Schindler.

The complaint alleges that Hazard said Keyes had created a "hostile work environment" for Schindler which led to her departure. Keyes said her comment "disparages my character and professional brand in the private sector" and he said he would be consulting a personal attorney "to evaluate my options of litigation against [Hazard] directly or against the Town of Hopedale/You as Madam Chair of the Select Board."

The complaint was in the select board's meeting packet under "Correspondence" which are not



Hopedale Select Board member Brian Keyes. Source: Dec. 12, 2022, Select Board meeting.

typically read aloud at selectmen's meetings but are available on the select board's webpage, but Keyes wanted it read aloud and discussed.

Hazard said, "I think that, because it threatens litigation, that it's not a subject that should be discussed in open session."

Keyes asked Attorney Tim Zessin, who was at the meeting, for

**COMPLAINT**  
*continued on page 2*

**RELIABLE PET SITTING**  
Professional Dog, Cat and Horse Care at Your Home



CALL MAGGIE  
**508-769-9634**

Dependable • Year-Round Service  
Excellent References

35 Years Professional Experience

**DOGGIE DAYCARE  
LUXURY BOARDING**



CALL or Email TODAY!  
**508-478-6390**  
Family@pawsbedandbiscuit.com

**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices



**Lenore Testa**  
REALTOR®

**Commonwealth Real Estate**  
100 Medway Road, Suite 201  
Milford, MA 01757  
Cell: 508-989-8372  
eFax: 508-313-2690  
Lenore.Testa@CommonMoves.com  
www.CommonMoves.com

  A member of franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Hopedale's Premier Choice for Martial Arts Training



**Hapkido** 합기도  
Children & Adults  
1 Month w/Uniform  
**\$49.99**

60C Mellen Street | Hopedale | 508-634-0030  
www.TMI-SELFDEFENSE.com    themartialinstinct@gmail.com



Voted Best of the Best in All of MetroWest!  
**BEST PET SERVICE**  
2019, 2020 & 2021

**www.PawsBedandBiscuit.com**

**TESTA  
CARPENTRY**



• All Home Improvements  
• Finished Basements  
• Additions  
• Kitchens & Bathrooms  
• Vinyl Siding  
• Windows & Doors

**COREY TESTA**  
508-962-6585  
Office: 508-478-7979  
Milford, MA  
testacarpentry.com

 Find us on Facebook

**NUTCRACKER**

*continued from page 1*

Soldier, and Chinese Corps; my daughter, Stacey Croeber, age 41, played a Party Parent along with my husband Douglas Lock, age 69, and myself," said Cerulli-Lock.

"Having three generations on stage at the same time in Act 1 is a blessing for me. I have danced since I was 7 and to have my family share my love and passion for ballet is a Christmas gift in and of itself," she said before the performance.

Her daughter danced in her teens and in college, and her

grandchildren are both on the dance team at Express Dance & Acrobatics in Milford.

Cerulli-Lock says, "As a mother and a grandmother, I hope to leave a legacy for my children and grandchildren; and I have multiple things in my life that I'd like to leave but most of all is my love of ballet," adding her mother had also been a dancer.

The 2022 production of The Nutcracker was the 41st year Miss Georgia's had performed the classic ballet based on the 1816 short story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

**COMPLAINT**

*continued from page 1*

his opinion on the matter. Zessin said the complaint itself is part of the public record, is available online, and it is the Chair's decision how to handle correspondence.

"If this is how it's typically done then it's her call," said Zessin.

Keyes responded, "So I guess I just live with being censored on it. Okay. Well, more to come on that," and urged residents to read the complaint and watch the video.

"You're right, there is a threat of litigation because I'm very upset," Keyes said. "I was completely over the line and I just

thought the residents would like to know the reasons for the complaint and why I think that you stepped out of bounds."

Hazard said Keyes' complaint was clearly spelled out in his letter, adding, "I think me outlining why that was not a fabrication is not in the town's best interest, or my best interest, or even your best interest, and so I'm not going to do that in a public session. And since we're clearly not on the same side, it wouldn't be fodder for an executive session either."

The full complaint can be found at <https://bit.ly/3YB5Ydh>. The Oct. 24 meeting video can be found at <https://bit.ly/3WtTJgI>

# Nutting named Interim Town Administrator

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Nov. 21, the Hopedale Select Board unanimously named Jeffrey Nutting as its Interim Town Administrator, replacing Diana Schindler who left in November.

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard said the town had received five applications and the board would interview three candidates.

During his interview, Nutting said, "I have a lot of history here...I learned to fly at the airport and I worked down there... My dad ran a company here, he lived here for 20 years, my sister lives here, I love the town. I love your park and your walkover around the bridge. I have a long history here in Hopedale; you're a unique community and I'd like to be able to help you during this transition like I have other communities."

Nutting lives in Franklin where he served as Town Administrator from 2001 until retiring in 2019. He also served in various municipal positions in several towns for many years. He grew up in Medway, where he joined the Finance

Committee at age 20, and he worked for many years as a consultant with the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

Select Board member Bernie Stock and Interim Executive Assistant Martha White both lauded Nutting for his work in guiding Franklin through its rapid growth spurt after the expansion of Route 495.

The board also interviewed Robert Reed of Medway and Greg Balukonis of Milford.

Reed lives in Medway and worked as Town Administrator in Leicester for nine years before retiring in 2013. Since that time he has had several interim and acting positions, including a six-month stint in Hopedale from Oct. 2019 to April 2020 during Hopedale's previous search that resulted in Schindler being hired.

During his interview, Reed said, "I enjoyed Hopedale when I was here, a lot of challenges. I think a lot of the challenges probably remain but I think people in this profession are looking for a challenge, that's what they do."

Balukonis lives in Milford and described himself as "a career Town Administrator" for more

than 36 years, two of those years (1991 to 1993) as Hopedale's Town Administrator. He retired in 2019 and has worked in interim positions since, including as Town Administrator in Dudley for five years and North Reading for nine years.

During his interview, Balukonis said he enjoyed working for the town many years ago.

"It was enjoyable. My impression was it was a neat little town...It's almost deja vu," he said. "Something about wanting to work in a community where you were at, at a young point in your career."

After the interviews, Chairperson Hazard said, "I think we're super lucky to have an abundance of qualified candidates so I don't think we can really make a wrong decision."

Nutting's appointment was contingent on negotiations. He said during the interview that his rate is \$75 per hour and he would not require supplemental benefits. He started the position in December.

Full resumes and cover letters can be found at [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov) or <https://bit.ly/3jjK1z1>.

# Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year will be held Monday, Jan. 30, through Friday, Feb. 3, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Registration packets will be sent to families of eligible children during the week of Jan. 17. If you do not receive a packet by Wednesday, Jan. 25, please call the school office at 508-634-

2214x8.

Registration paperwork can be dropped off at the office, emailed to [ltuite@hopedale-schools.org](mailto:ltuite@hopedale-schools.org) or mailed to Hopedale Memorial School, 6 Prospect St., Hopedale, MA 01747.

There will be no in-person registrations. Please be sure all paperwork is completed

and any necessary documents needed to register are with your packet. This registration is for Hopedale residents only.

Please Note: Your child must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2023, to be eligible for Kindergarten this year.

**Looking to advertise?**  
 Contact Susanne today at 508-954-8148  
 or by email at [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)

**NOR'EASTER ROOFING INC.**

**Our Roofs will weather the storm!**

**Thank You for making us your #1 choice.**  
*Deal directly with the owner Rob Chaille. No outside salesman!*

ROOFING • VINYL SIDING • WINDOWS  
 CHIMNEY REPAIRS • SEAMLESS GUTTERS  
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION

~Over 36 Years Experience~  
 Residential & Commercial  
 From a hole in your roof...to a whole new roof!

508-NOR-EAST / 508-667-3278  
[www.NoreasterRoofing.com](http://www.NoreasterRoofing.com)  
 UXBRIDGE, MA  
 Call us for a FREE Estimate

CS#69907 HIC#160483

facebook

BBB CERTIFIED STAR CONTRACTOR

**MUFFIN HOUSE CAFE**

116 Main St, Medway (508) 533-6655  
 32 Hasting St, Rte 16, Mendon (508) 381-0249  
 43 Main St, Hopkinton (508) 625-8100  
 325 N. Main St, Natick (508) 647-0500

**NOW OPEN!**  
 296 Washington St Westwood, MA

Don't stand in line!  
**ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE!**  
 Don't Wait! Order your Thanksgiving Cakes, Pies and Desserts Early!  
[muffinhousecafe.com](http://muffinhousecafe.com)

Open Daily  
 Bakery with Fresh Muffins/Pastries

Breakfast and Lunch Sandwiches  
 Best Blueberry Muffins Since Jordan Marsh

**Receive 10% off any cake with this coupon**  
 All our cakes are made from scratch on the premises  
 Expires 1-31-2023

**FREE SMALL COFFEE with a purchase of a muffin with this coupon**  
 Expires 1-31-2023

Muffinhousecafe

facebook

HOP

# Town Planner position posted

## Applicants being accepted through Jan. 12

By THERESA KNAPP

After months of collaboration between the Select Board, Planning Board, and Economic Development Committee, the job description has been posted

for the position of Hopedale Town Planner.

At its meeting on Nov. 21, the board discussed salary for the position. At the November special town meeting, voters transferred \$75,000 to fund the

position.

“That’s not going to attract who you want,” said Interim Executive Assistant Martha White, who previously served as a town planner in another town.

When the possibility of a part-time planner was mentioned, White said Hopedale has a workload that requires a full-time person.

The board agreed to advertise the position as “salary negotiable” and to consider applicants seeking either permanent or contract work.

The position is listed on the town website with a salary of \$65,000 to \$75,000. Applications are being accepted through Jan. 12 “or until the position is filled.”

The full job description can be found at [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)

# Caitlyn Heffernan receives Citizen Life Saving Award

By THERESA KNAPP

On Nov. 21, at a meeting of the Select Board, Caitlyn Heffernan was presented with a Citizen Life Saving Award by Hopedale Fire Chief Thomas Daige.

In a letter to the Select Board, Daige explained that, on Sept. 17, Heffernan was attending the Annual Day-in-the-Park event with her family when she “noticed a young child choking on food, her lips turning blue and presenting the universal sign of choking.”

Chief Daige said Heffernan sprang into action and performed the Heimlich maneuver, which dislodged the popcorn from the young girl’s airway, and the child was able to breathe again.

“If it wasn’t for Ms. Heffernan’s quick actions, the outcome certainly would not have been

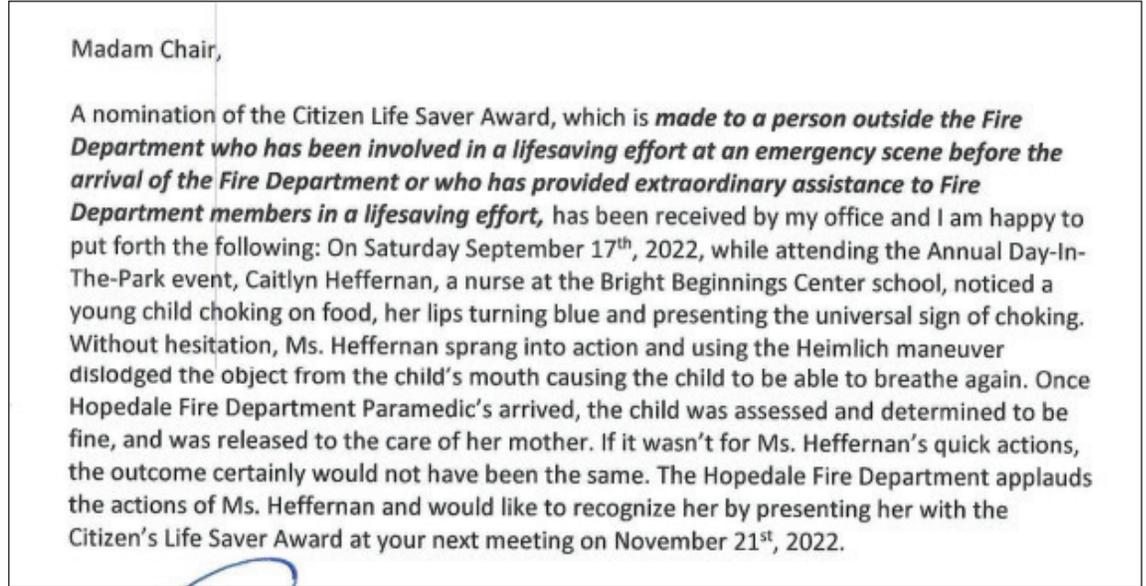
the same.”

Chief Daige read from the award:

“Caitlyn Heffernan: Be it known on this day, November 21, 2022, that you are awarded this honor for your decisive actions on September 17, 2022. The Hopedale Fire Department applauds your actions and recognizes your value to the community.”

“Your quick actions not only saved the life of the child but made things a lot easier for us at a time when we’re typically distressed,” said Daige.

The Citizen Life Saving Award is awarded to someone outside the fire department who has been involved in a lifesaving effort. Heffernan is the school nurse at Bright Beginnings Center.



**Checking with all the benefits.**  
High-yield. High-tech. High-satisfaction.

<p>e by UniBank Checking Bonus Rate of Interest</p> <p><b>1.75% APY<sup>1</sup></b> On balances \$10 to \$14,999.99</p>	<p><b>1.75% APY<sup>1</sup> - 0.84% APY<sup>1</sup></b> On balances \$15,000 or greater</p>	<p>Basic Rate of Interest</p> <p><b>0.01% APY<sup>1</sup></b> On balances over \$10</p>
---	---	---

 Scan to apply online or visit our branch in Milford at 91 Prospect Street (in the Shaw's Plaza).
 

[www.unibank.com](http://www.unibank.com)  
508.478.5666


**MEMBER FDIC | MEMBER DIF** <sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) effective as of December 8, 2022 and are subject to change at anytime after the account is opened. Minimum balance of \$10 required to open the account and earn the above noted APYs. Fees may reduce earnings on this account. The following benefits can be obtained in a given monthly statement cycle when the statement cycle conditions noted below are met: Payment of a higher interest rates (Bonus Rates) and refund for nationwide ATM surcharge transaction fees to a maximum of \$25 per cycle. Statement cycle conditions: Must have a minimum of 8 debit card purchase transactions that post and settle to the account during the statement cycle (not all purchase transactions post or settle on the day they occur); and maintain active enrollment in eStatements. If any one of the minimum requirements are not met in a statement cycle nationwide ATM fees will not be refunded and the Basic Rate of Interest will be earned on the total account balance. Limit of one account per customer holding the position of primary account holder. Bonus rate of interest APY range assumes a maximum deposit of \$50,000 for illustration purposes only. The account does not have a maximum deposit limit.

**PLANNING**



**“Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup” with Attorney Paula Nedder.**

**Thursday January 12, 2023**  
**Hopedale Senior Center**  
**1:00 pm**

**Learn the “must does” for sound legal planning. Join us for a discussion on Healthcare Proxys, Wills, Power of Attorney, Trusts and more. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Refreshments provided. Sign-up required. Please call (508)634-2208.**

# Green River Cannabis gets community host agreement for 150 Hartford Avenue

By THERESA KNAPP

After two years of trying, Green River Cannabis Company, Inc. has a host community agreement that was approved by the Hopedale Select Board, albeit contingent on the approval by the Attorney General of zoning changes made at November special town meeting.

Attorney and company partner Constant Poholek, Jr. has been working with the town since 2020 to find an approved site for his "high end" retail marijuana business, including locations at 54 Mellon Street, 5 Condon Way, and the now-approved 150 Hartford Avenue.

"We have a provisional license now so what we would be doing is basically transferring our license to this location," said Poholek.

At a Nov. 14 special town meeting, residents voted to rezone the 150 Hartford Avenue

location (and several others) from General Business to Commercial. The new zoning will go into effect once the vote is approved by the Attorney General's Office.

At its meeting on Dec. 12, the Hopedale Select Board voted 2-1 to approve the HCA for Green River Cannabis at 150 Hartford Avenue, Unit C. Select Board members Bernie Stock and Chair Glenda Hazard were in favor, Brian Keyes was opposed because this location nearly abuts Caroline's Cannabis on Charlesview Road.

"I fundamentally don't believe that two retail establishments right next to each other is the best location and the best thing for Hopedale...I have a hard time getting behind this," Keyes said.

"I believe that the three of you can co-exist," said Hazard, referring to the other marijuana establishments in town. She also noted that the November special



Green River Cannabis Company has a signed Host Community Agreement for 150 Hartford Avenue, Unit C (highlighted in yellow). Image source: Dec. 12, 2022, meeting of the Hopedale Select Board.

town meeting had voted not to

approve a citizen's petition to create a buffer zone between "like" businesses.

Audience members noted, in general, there are often hairdressers and barbers near each other, and several big box retailers or fast food restaurants near each other, and they typically survive.

Caroline Frankel, owner of Caroline's Cannabis, asked the board not to sign the HCA and said putting another retail mari-

juana shop near her store would be bad for her business on nearby Charlesview Road. She also noted she is the only social-equity business in Hopedale for which the town will receive an additional one percent of tax revenue.

Once the town meeting votes are validated by the Attorney General, Green River Cannabis can proceed.

**localtownpages**

Published Monthly  
Mailed FREE to the  
Community of Hopedale  
Circulation: 2,576  
households & businesses

**Publisher**  
Chuck Tashjian

**Editorial**  
Susan Manning

**Send Editorial to:**  
editor@hopedaletownnews.com

**Advertising Sales**  
Susanne Odell Farber  
508-954-8148  
sue@sodellconsult.com

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Jen Schofield  
508-570-6544  
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

**Creative Design & Layout**  
Michelle McSherry  
Kim Vasseur

Ad Deadline is the  
15th of each month.

*Localtownpages assumes no  
financial liability for errors or  
omissions in printed advertising and  
reserves the right to reject/edit  
advertising or editorial submissions.*

© Copyright 2023 LocalTownPages

**CHARRON**  
**Tree Service**  
Quality Timely Service!  
BELLINGHAM, MA  
**508-883-8823**  
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

- Tree Removal
- Pruning/Trimming
- Storm Damage
- Land Clearing
- Stump Grinding

**KEVIN LEMIRE, OWNER**  
All employees are covered under Workers' Comp Ins. [CharronTreeService.com](http://CharronTreeService.com)

**HCA**  
Your Arts Center  
Mass Cultural Council  
98 HAYDEN ROWE STREET  
HOPKINTON  
508.435.9222

**LEARN.  
CREATE.  
GROW.  
WITH HCA**

Dance | Music | Ceramics  
Theater | Visual Arts  
Performance Events

.....

We believe the Arts are  
for individuals of all ages,  
cultures, and artistic abilities.

[www.HopArtsCenter.org](http://www.HopArtsCenter.org)

**NEW ENGLAND REGLAZE**

Don't replace  
your old tub, reglaze it!  
Tubs, tile sinks and  
much more

Reg. \$399  
Color, travel, may apply.

**NOW \$299.00**

We do any TUB!  
**CALL US NOW**  
617-895-7771  
[www.newenglandreglaze.com](http://www.newenglandreglaze.com)

SAVE \$100 WITH AD

**Want to get noticed?**

Contact Susanne today at  
508-954-8148 or by email at  
[sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com) and find out how  
you can reach more than 153,000 homes  
and businesses each month!

# Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk re-



moval on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It

## Business spotlight

allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Hopedale in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers live in nearby Milford and have coached and sponsored many youth sports activities in both Hopedale and Milford.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit [affordablejunkremoval.com](http://affordablejunkremoval.com).



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

## Print & Deliver

We Print and Deliver your inserts. Perfect for Big Events, Coupons, Menus and More!



For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)

**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!

**The Bark Ark**  
COUNTRY HILLS PLAZA \* MENDON  
Serving Mendon and surrounding towns

**Your Hometown Pet Groomer! 508-473-4744**

# Hopedale High Students Flex Their Financial Muscles

On Friday, December 9th, the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School held its eighth annual financial literacy fair, the FinFit Fair, for junior and senior students. Organized by three seniors—Ryan Hayes, Vinny Kaushik, and Ahaan Singh (pictured)—under the guidance of Hopedale business teacher Talitha Oliveri, the fair simulated participants' lives at age 25. Students faced the financial choices they will have to make at that age, from student loans to rent payments, all the while competing to see who could be the most financially fit.

Booths representing the various financial decisions students could make lined the venue, ranging from transportation to investing to lifestyle and leisure. Participants were tasked with making financially-responsible decisions while not neglecting

their mental health. Quality-of-Life points were tied to each item at a booth, with higher Quality-of-Life numbers for decisions that positively impacted their mental well-being.

Students were assigned jobs and credit scores based on the results of a pre-fair survey, noting their interests in various fields and evaluating their current level of financial fitness. Jobs were determined based on these passions, allowing participants to use their respective entry-level salary to budget monthly expenses for real financial decisions they will make in the future. During school, training sessions for the fair were held to familiarize students with the concept of the fair and the newly-developed app.

The FinFit team applied for and received a \$2,500 Financial Education Fair grant from the Massachusetts Office of State



Treasurer and Receiver General. This money was used to purchase supplies and overhaul fair branding and theme with the addition of new signage and booths.

Students competed in their respective grade levels to see who could gain the most Quality-of-Life points with respect to salary, while remaining fiscally responsible. Additional factors included maintaining a positive checking account balance along with a credit utilization rate under 30%. Juniors Cody McLain, Kyle Maloney, and Matt Carroll did exceptionally well, with Cody winning the Junior fair! For Seniors, Taralyn Moore placed first, with Tyler Wilke and Tom McSweeney coming in as runner-ups respectively.

“There is nothing better than students teaching other students.

## HIGH SCHOOL

continued on page 7

**New England Ballistic Services Inc.**

**Instant cash paid for your valuable firearms.**

Call today for a confidential consultation  
508-381-0230 • [www.neballistic.com](http://www.neballistic.com)

When the right coverage counts you can count on our LOCAL, PERSONAL & KNOWLEDGEABLE staff to take care of your Home • Auto • Business • Life

**Bright Insurance Agency**

**Jensen Sheehan Insurance Agency**

6 Congress St, Milford • 54 Central St, Holliston

**HOPEDALE PIZZA MARKET**

**\$5 OFF**

Dine-in/Take-out orders on purchase \$10 or more  
VALID ON FOOD ONLY

**NEAPOLITAN PIZZA!**  
Beer & Wine Now Available (DINE-IN ONLY)

1 Menfi Way, Hopedale • 508-381-3292 • [myhopedalepizza.com](http://myhopedalepizza.com)

Your Money, Your Independence

# New Year, New You... Not True?



Glenn Brown

If you started 2022 with FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) or based new investments chasing 2021 performance, how did that work?

Yes, momentum, innovation, social & macro themes, niche, value and/or low-beta (risk) could be part of your investing strategy, but let's back up - do you have a strategy?

Is a core of low-cost, diversified index funds present to allow for explore ideas like X? How does X correlate with what is already owned? Impact on overall risk? Without mentioning performance, can you articulate why you own X and when wouldn't own X?

**Better Resolution:** *Need to save \_\_\_% and take \_\_\_ risk with investments to reach \_\_\_ goal.*

To truly build assets, you need to save a specific percentage each year, take opportunistic or measured risks AND invest towards your established goal, not an investment benchmark or The Joneses.

**Bad Resolution:** *Pay down debt.*

Sounds important, but is it? It depends. Tax deductions, interest rates, duration, fixed or variable, inflation, deflation, and depreciation ensure all debt is not equal.

**Better Resolution:** *Execute a debt reduction plan.*

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% or lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing those rates over time.

An exception, if not at ~40% home equity ownership, can make a case to get there and open a HELOC. Beyond flexibility to access equity built and lower total interest paid, can eliminate the opportunity costs of a large cash position for the "what ifs" in life.

**Bad Resolution:** *Do more for my retirement.*

Buy a lottery ticket, as greater chance of success than this vague "lose weight" resolution tossed by January 10th.

**Better Resolution:** *How do I retire at 55 or semi-retire in 5 years.*

Now you're analyzing cash flows, balance sheet, contribution rates, investment allocations, taxation, work benefits, college funding, planning for the unexpected and desired lifestyle with expenses in retirement. You'll establish a set of base facts, allowing to then create scenarios, see projections, reverse engineer action steps, and track goals within timelines.

Aggressive timelines creates urgency, leading to actions that bring you closer the ultimate retirement accomplishment - choice.

Now ask yourself, are your resolutions the same as last year?

What different actions are you going to take to make a difference?

Know what Einstein said about doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Maybe it's time to socialized your goals, set monthly action items to create fresh start moments and leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2023 resolutions happen.

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](http://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.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2023?

Let's help you start by recognizing questionable resolutions, including three destined for failure plus what should be considered for successful planning outcomes.

**Bad Resolution:** *Need to start buying "X" to grow my money.*

## HIGH SCHOOL

*continued from page 6*

And when students are teaching peers about financial literacy, there may actually be an impact for the rest of their lives," said Hopedale Superintendent Karen

they've gone back to work with."

The team would like to thank fair sponsors UniBank, Rockland Trust, American Student Assistance, the Worcester District Attorney's Office, the Massachusetts Office of State Treasurer and Receiver General, and the Hopedale Parent-Teacher Orga-

ale Superintendent Karen Crebase, District Communications Director for Senator Fattman Kylie Gibbons, Representative Brian Murray, District Attorney Joe Early Jr, and Hopedale business teacher Talitha Oliveri! Additionally, they'd like to specifically thank Talitha Oli-



Crebase. "The work that our students have done on the financial literacy fair has positively impacted our juniors, our seniors, and all the other students that

nization! Keynote speakers provided fantastic, engaging advice to juniors and seniors. This year, the team would like to recognize our remarkable speakers: Hoped-

veri for her incredible efforts to help organize the fair—it simply wouldn't be possible without her.

**Looking to advertise?**  
Contact Susanne today at 508-954-8148  
or by email at [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)

## Want financial independence?

**Are you building with:**

- Fee-only Certified Financial Planner™
- Strategies for budget, cash flow & debt
- Low-cost investments ■ Growing income streams
- Maximizing work, government & health benefits
- Tax planning ■ Insurance analysis ■ Estate planning
- College savings for kids ■ Care for elderly parents

**We help you take control of planning and investing, so you can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.**



**Glenn Brown,**  
CFP®, CRPC  
508-834-7733  
[www.PlanDynamic.com](http://www.PlanDynamic.com)



**PlanDynamic**  
*Evolve your financial independence.*

PlanDynamic, LLC is a registered investment advisor. Please visit our website for important disclosures.

## NEWS FROM SHINE: January 2023

What if I missed the Medicare Open Enrollment Period?  
Can I still make a change to my 2023 coverage?

The MA Open Enrollment Period occurs each year from January 1 through March 31, and it is only available to people who are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. One change can be made during this period, which will take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll. For example, if you switch to a new Medicare Advantage Plan in February, your new coverage begins March 1.

Changes that can be made during this period include switching to:

- a different MA plan with drug coverage;
- a different MA plan without drug coverage;
- Original Medicare and a Part D plan; or
- Original Medicare without a Part D plan.

This is an opportunity to make a change if you find your coverage is not working for you; for example, one of your doctors no longer accepts your plan.

Other news:

- For those with Prescription Advantage or “Extra Help”; these programs help with paying for your prescription drugs. They also offer a Special Enrollment Period allowing you to change your prescription drug plan if needed, outside of Open Enrollment.
  - Those with Prescription Advantage can do this only once each year.
  - Those with “Extra Help” can change once each quarter.
- The Massachusetts Medicare Savings Program pays your monthly Part B Premium that is deducted from your Social Security income. The 2023 monthly Part B premium will be \$164.90. You will also be eligible for Extra Help from Social Security mentioned above to help pay your prescription drug costs. You may be eligible if your income and assets are at or below these values. These figures may change in early 2023 visit our website. [www.shinema.org](http://www.shinema.org) to get the latest information

○ Individual	Gross Income: \$1,984/month	Assets: \$16,800
○ Couple	Gross Income: \$2,518/month	Assets: \$25,200

**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 the Senior Center at (508)634-2208 or the Regional SHINE Office at 508-422-9931. Outside of Central Mass call 1-800-243-4636, press option 4. 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](http://www.shinema.org), our Medicare 101 webinars, and our Facebook page: [SHINE Central MA](#).

**JANUARY 2023 - HOPEDALE SR. CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS' HOLIDAY</b></p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal</p> <p>12:30 pm Mah-Jongg</p> <p>12:30 pm Bridge</p> <p><i>Errand Van Available</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>11:00 am Meditation</p> <p>12:30 pm Literature</p> <p>1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class</p> <p>10:00 am Move, Grove &amp; Sculpt</p> <p>12:00 pm <b>New Years' Lunch Party at the Sr. Center</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Tai Chi</p> <p><i>Errand Van Available</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise w/ Christine</p> <p>Senior Center Closes at 12:00 pm</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera</p> <p>9:00 am Bridge</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>1:00 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal</p> <p>12:30 pm Mah-Jongg</p> <p>12:30 pm Bridge</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>11:00 am Meditation</p> <p>12:30 pm Literature</p> <p>1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class</p> <p>10:00 am Move, Grove &amp; Sculpt</p> <p>1:00 pm Tai Chi</p> <p>1:00 pm <i>Take Control of Your Future - Legal Checkup Seminar with Attorney Paula Nedder</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise w/ Christine</p> <p>Senior Center Closes at 12:00 pm</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY</b></p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal</p> <p>12:30 pm Mah-Jongg</p> <p>12:30 pm Bridge</p> <p><i>Errand Van Available</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 am Nurse Clinic</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>11:00 am Meditation</p> <p>12:30 pm Literature</p> <p>1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class</p> <p>10:00 am Knitters' Group</p> <p>10:00 am Move, Grove &amp; Sculpt</p> <p>1:00 pm Tai Chi</p> <p>1:00 pm COA Board Meeting</p> <p><i>Errand Van Available</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise w/ Christine</p> <p>Senior Center Closes at 12:00 pm</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera</p> <p>9:00 am Bridge</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>12:00 pm Lunch @ Sr. Center</p> <p>1:00 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal</p> <p>12:30 pm Mah-Jongg</p> <p>12:30 pm Bridge</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>11:00 am Meditation</p> <p>12:30 pm Literature</p> <p>1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class</p> <p>10:00 am Move, Grove &amp; Sculpt</p> <p>1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise w/ Christine</p> <p>Senior Center Closes at 12:00 pm</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera</p> <p>9:00 am Bridge</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise</p> <p>1:00 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal</p> <p>12:30 pm Mah-Jongg</p> <p>12:30 pm Bridge</p> <p><i>Errand Van Available</i></p>			

**HEY HOPEDALE!**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

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

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



localtownpages 

**Hopedale**

And as always, find us online at [hopedaletownnews.com](http://hopedaletownnews.com)

**Hopedale Mini-Storage**

Storage For All Your Needs

Located at 6 Business Way in Hopedale



**(508) 478-6996 or (888) 317-4910**

Open 7 Days a Week  
 Security Fence & Lighting  
 Month-to-Month Leasing  
 Commercial & Residential  
 Three Unit Sizes  
 Insurance Available

# Bancroft Memorial Library

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747

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

## January Holidays

Monday, January 2 CLOSED – New Year’s Day (observed)

Monday, January 16 CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group

Join us in a professional forum for networking with peers in a safe and comfortable environment for ages 50+! Beginning in January and running through June, each meeting features a new topic. Meetings include a presentation and hands-on workshop on topics. This is a Zoom event, and the program will repeat with 2 sessions. Participants may select either option, mix in mornings and evenings, and if you are interested in only a specific topic, join in at any time. The morning sessions are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, from 9:30-11:30am. The evening sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 6-8pm. Please call the Library to

register at (508)634-2209.

## Take and Make Kits

Stop by on January 3 and pick up Take and Make Kits for all ages. There are Hygge Gnome Kits for teens and adults and Snowman Craft Kits for ages 3 and up, while supplies last!

## 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 *The Maid* by Nita Prose on January 4, 2022 at 1:00 pm. «A charmingly eccentric hotel maid discovers a guest murdered in his bed, turning her once orderly world upside down--and inspiring a motley crew of unexpected allies to band together to solve the mystery--in this utterly original debut. A Clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be

the same as everyone else and yet entirely different--and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart” –adapted from the CWMARS catalog.

## Wednesday Needlework Group

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

## News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children’s Room

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

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills. The goal of the pro-

gram is to encourage parents and caregivers to read 1000 books with their child before he or she starts Kindergarten. The program will kick-off in January at the beginning of the New Year. The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration is open and the program is free to all.

## Homeschool Hangout!

Get together with other homeschool families from the Hopedale area to learn, engage, and socialize on Tuesday mornings 11am-12pm. All ages invited!

## Hygge Thursdays

Enjoy the warmth of the Library and the company of your friends on Thursdays at 3pm this month! Create Lego masterpieces on January 5 and 19. Bring a friend and challenge them to one of our board games on January 12 and 26! Ages 5+

## Winter Gingerbread Houses

Create gingerbread houses using milk cartons, graham crackers, frosting, and more on

Friday, January 13 at 1:30pm! Space is limited so register today! Ages 10+

## Pre-Teen Advisory Board

Calling all upper elementary and middle school students! We need your suggestions for programming you’d be interested in seeing at the Library and any other suggestions you have for the upper elementary/ young adult collection. Our first meeting will be on Monday, January 30 at 5pm. Open to anyone in grades 5-8 and/or ages 10-14. No registration required.

## Chinese New Year!

Celebrate Chinese New Year with stories and crafts on Saturday, January 28 at 11:30am. Ages 7+

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

# Multicultural Festival: BVT students and staff celebrated cultures and traditions

Food, music and art are great unifiers, connecting people from different backgrounds and experiences. Traditional recipes carefully passed down from one generation to the next can be a source of pride and an expression of cultural identity. Making and sharing those foods is a simple way to celebrate one’s heritage with others. It is also one of the many ways Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School students and staff contributed to an authentic celebration at its second annual Multicultural Festival.

The interdisciplinary event held at the school on Oct. 28, included a Multicultural Center featuring student-run booths representing many countries and, in the process, diverse traditions that make each of the students unique. Members

of our Multicultural Club presented thoughtfully prepared posters with items and goods from countries and cultures worldwide. The students and staff enjoyed sampling the tasty offerings at the student-run booths.

If you were open to trying foods from other countries, you might have stopped by one of these booths, African American Culture by Keyara Jones, an assortment of cornbread muffins. Colombia by Colby Duncan and Ayala Gonzalez, Colombian soda samples. Ecuador by Nico Alvarez-Benincasa, Jacob Selby, and Kylie French, plantain chips. France by Maura Cleary and Madison Maynard, eclairs, and coconut macaroons. Ireland by Zoey Dauderis and Gabrielle Mathis, slices of Irish soda bread. Mexico by Kevin Flores and Natalia

Vazquez, sweet pastries. Vietnam by Jackson Doan, spring rolls.

“I was proud to see our students sharing their cultures and traditions with their peers, and the overwhelmingly positive response from the students and staff who visited is what the Multicultural Festival is all about,” said Luanne Pehl, Multicultural Club Advisor. “I hope we learn from this experience that there is unity in diversity!”

“I enjoyed speaking with my peers and instructors about Ecuador during the Multicultural Festival. It is a magnificent country,” said Kylie French of Upton, a sophomore in Painting & Design Technology. “We discussed food, music, and art. I also shared photos taken while visiting Ecuador. While presenting the poster, I incorporated my experience, memories,

and knowledge of Ecuador into the presentation. For example, we offered samples of plantain chips, a popular food snack, that came from having tried them for the first time in Ecuador. The plantains there are prepared in many ways, but I especially loved them fried and served with the main course or as dessert.”

In addition to the student-run booths, there were Day of the Dead activities, a visiting artist, dance lessons, and a cultural performance. J&L Dance Studio instructors shared a brief history with those who had signed up for a lesson and taught the basic steps to dance Salsa and Merengue. While GP Vahan, an Armenian artist from the Armenian Museum of America, discussed culture in artwork and assisted students in creating a personalized wheel

of eternity. The day also included a cultural performance by Crocodile River Music, which shared the universal influence of African rhythms, melodies, and traditional African outfits.

The interdisciplinary event was a successful collaborative effort supported in part by grants from the Douglas, Hopedale, Millbury, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Join in the celebration and explore the various cultural offerings by viewing a video produced by student videographer Jenna Dolber showcasing the event: [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/multiculturalfestival2022](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/multiculturalfestival2022)

# 92 Adams Scholars Announced

## Members of the Class of 2023 Earn John and Abigail Adams Scholarships

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has announced the Class of 2023 John and Abigail Adams four-year scholarship recipients.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship provides a tuition credit for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. Eligibility to earn a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is based on students' first-time scores on high school MCAS tests. The scholarship only covers tuition and must be used within six years of a student's graduation. The following students have earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (students are listed alphabetically by town):

### Bellingham

Nicholas Cummings, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Rudolph Patete, Engineering & Robotics; and Sarah Trumm, Dental Assisting

### Blackstone

Mason Baldini, Engineering & Robotics; Daniel Cardone, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Ashlyn Lambert, Multimedia Communications; and Sophia Mazzuchelli, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication

### Douglas

Griffin Beaulieu, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Brady Courtemanche, Drafting & Design Technology; Kyle Forget, Engineering & Robotics; Kenneth Horne, Drafting & Design Technology; Megan Roe, Multimedia Communications; Brett Staples, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Julia White, Cosmetology

### Grafton

Jordyn Carroll, Health Services; Juliana Errara, Health Services; Hailey Lutjelusche, Engineering & Robotics; Noah Mariano, Engineering & Robotics; Owen Mathieu, HVAC/R; and Henry Warfield, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

### Hopedale

Kaden Crawford, Information Technology; Hayle Orta, Health Services; Jay Patel, Information Technology; Edward Podlejski, Information Technology; and Jackson Staheli, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

### Mendon

Amanda Pajak, Multimedia Communications; Naomi Tsuda, Culinary Arts; and Natalia Vazquez, Engineering & Robotics.

### Milford

Jack Abbiuso, Information Technology; Jaclyn Bader, Engineering & Robotics; Zachary Barnes, Information Technology; Logan Betti, Information Technology; Jason Cardente, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Colin Chambless, Engineering & Robotics; Dillon Costa, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Thays De Assis,

Drafting & Design Technology; Mayra Desousa, Health Services; Jhohann Edmonds, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Marcella Ferreira, Construction Technology; Kevin Flores, Drafting & Design Technology; Lauren Gobbi, Dental Assisting; Ana Guaman, Construction Technology; Heather Jarek, Multimedia Communications; Rillary Madruga Ferreira, Engineering & Robotics; Alexander Mairs, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Ashley McIsaac, HVAC/R; Arianna Morese, Multimedia Communications; and Joshua Schorn, Culinary Arts

### Millbury

Samuel Bazydlo, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Mia Boucher, Engineering & Robotics; Troy Cami, Health Services; David Perry, Plumbing; Jayden Roderigues, Drafting & Design Technology; and Gianna Solomon, Culinary Arts.

### Millville

Benjamin Craven, Plumbing; and Joshua Platt, Information Technology.

### Northbridge

Vanessa Calles, Drafting & Design Technology; Paige Chausse, Dental Assisting; Jackson Doan, Drafting & Design Technology; Jenna Dolber, Multimedia Communications; Riley Driver, Electrical; Sam Grilli, Drafting & Design Technology; Joseph Hutchinson, Drafting & Design Technology; Carleigh Koopman, Dental Assisting; Noah Malkasian, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Ethan Ross, Culinary Arts; Nicholas Vaughan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Emily Wildfeuer, Drafting & Design Technology.

### Sutton

Scott Glode, Electrical; Samuel Judson, Drafting & Design Technology; Haley Kirouac, Engineering & Robotics; Adrian Lowell, Information Technology; Aidan Mcgrail, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Colin Medeiros, Electron-

ics & Engineering Technology.

### Upton

Julia Bern, Construction Technology; Sarah Flynn, Engineering & Robotics; Anna Giracca, Painting & Design Technology; Sidney Laden, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Bradley Lyon, Drafting & Design Technology; Jason Nguyen, Dental Assisting; Artem Plotkin, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Jessica Powers, Culinary Arts; Amelia Rouleau, Construction Technology; Katelyn Steele, Engineering & Robotics; and Caitlin Walsh, HVAC/R.

### Uxbridge

Katelin Carlson, Health Services; William Crosby, Painting & Design Technology; Isabella Gannon, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Riley Goyette, Engineering & Robotics; Maxwell Guyton, Engineering & Robotics; Kioni Sankofa, Painting & Design Technology; and Sarah Snyder, Painting & Design Technology.



# Living Healthy

## Decades of Service to the Community Welcoming 2023

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 8 physicians and Optometrists in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis. We are a group of eye physicians/ surgeons and optometrists offering the latest in comprehensive and surgical eye care for the entire family. 2023 is here and we would like to welcome the entire community to our offices and surgery center.

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

also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No longer need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Three experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 5 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your eyecare provider is still asking you to travel faraway to secure eye treatments, call us for a second opinion.

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

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



Kaldawy was the first surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

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

Dr. Bryan Hong is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist. Dr. Hong is a graduate of Yale College and Yale School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Southern California Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles, CA. He then went on to complete an intensive vitreo-retinal disease fellowship at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Hong will be providing retina care in our practice starting September 2022, and specializes in eye surgery, laser surgery, and diseases of the retina, including macular degeneration, macular diseases, vitreo-macular interface abnormalities, retinal vascular diseases, diabetic retinopathy, trauma, retinal detachments, uveitis, and cataract complications. His research interests include retinal imaging, novel surgical techniques, and medical cost-efficacy analyses.

Dr. Adams, graduated from

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

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

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

Dr. Purvi Patel, OD originally from the tri-state area, received her bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey in 1996

EYES

continued on page 13



## MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

 Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.	 John F. Hatch, M.D.	 Bryan Hong, M.D.	 Michael R. Adams, O.D.
 Shalin Zia, O.D.	 Donald L. Conn, O.D.	 Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen, O.D.	 Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

**Optical Shop On-Site**

### SMILEFORVISION.COM

**Saturday & After Hours Available**

World-Class Eye Care & Surgery in Milford

New Patients Receive a Free Pair of Select Glasses

<b>FRANKLIN OFFICE</b> 750 Union St. 508-528-3344	<b>MILFORD OFFICE</b> 160 South Main St. 508-473-7939	<b>MILLIS OFFICE</b> 730 Main St. 508-528-3344	<b>SURGERY CENTER MILFORD</b> 145 West St. 508-381-6040
---	---	--	---

# BVT Seniors 'Commended' for National Merit and Academic Honors

## Student Achievement Recognized at School Committee

The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School seniors who were named Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program and those who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition programs were formally recognized at the November School Committee Meeting.

A letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), which conducts the program, was presented to seniors Owen Mathieu of Grafton (HVAC/R) and Jackson Staheli of Hopedale (Electronics & Engineering). Their high Selection Index score placed them among the top 50,000 students who en-

tered the 2023 National Merit Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Owen and Jackson are among roughly 34,000 Commended Students nationwide who have shown exceptional academic promise.

Certificates of Recognition, separate from the National Merit Program but related to College Board test results, were presented to three seniors who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition programs. At the meeting, Camila Ramirez of Hopedale (HVAC/R) was presented with the African American and Hispanic Rec-

ognition Award, Marcella Ferreira of Milford (Construction), and Natalia Vazquez of Mendon (Engineering and Robotics) with the Hispanic Recognition Award. This program recognizes academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on a qualifying College Board exam.

The Blackstone Valley Tech District School Committee acknowledged the remarkable achievements of the Commended Students and the College Board National Recognition program students during the November 17 meeting.

### EYES

*continued from page 12*

and her Doctor of Optometry from the State University of NY College of Optometry in 2000 through a joint accelerated B.S.-O.D. program. She then completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Special Testing. In 2003, Dr. Patel joined the New England College of Optometry as Clinical Assistant Professor. Through her role as Director of Eye Care Services at Whittier Street Health Center and then The Dimock Center, one of the largest community health centers in Boston, Dr. Patel brings with her teaching and leadership experience. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, with a history of publishing, presenting and lecturing. During the last 10 years, Dr. Patel has transitioned to direct care and worked in collaboration with ophthalmology. Most recently, Dr. Patel completed a postdoctoral certificate for the treatment & management of glaucoma. Dr. Patel has clinical interests in diabetes, glaucoma, community-based eye and vision care, public health & epidemiology. Dr. Patel currently lives in Dover, MA with her husband and 3 daughters. She enjoys traveling abroad, reading and tennis.

Dr. Shalin Zia, O.D. received her Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 2014 and her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana University in 2018. She moved to Massachusetts from the Midwest after getting married. She is a comprehensive optometrist with solid experienced in providing optometric

and medical eyecare to patients of all ages. In her free time, she enjoys working out, listening to podcasts, and spending time with family.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are different. We focus on excellent and advanced eye care and treat our patients as if each and every one is family. We have surgical results that rival those of major centers in Boston- we can prove it. We are from the community, most of us live in the community and our focus is to serve the community. You will see us in the office, at the local supermarket and in the ER at 1 AM if there is a need for our care. Our focus is you, your vision and excellent results. We are available, in your backyard and proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. We offer after-hours, same day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. 90% of our staff has been with us for over 5 years! Excellent retention of staff means outstanding loyalty and training. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home. Is your eyecare provider still recommending you travel hours to other practices and remote surgery centers? Call us: We are available to help and again in 2023 like ever before.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

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

**New Year Sale! Sat. Jan. 7th 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

<p><b>Specials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletic wear • Sweaters</li> <li>• Winter Accessories: mitts, gloves &amp; scarves</li> <li>• And More!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other In-Store Specials**</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2 Racks</li> <li>• And More!</li> <li>• Except special priced items**</li> </ul>
---	---

**Thrift Shop Hours**  
January 7th- 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (First Saturday each month except when there is a holiday)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church • [sacredhearthopdale.org](http://sacredhearthopdale.org)  
Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/twiceblessedthriftshophopedale/](https://www.facebook.com/twiceblessedthriftshophopedale/)  
187 Hopedale Street | Hopedale, MA 01747 | 508.473.1900



# PARK PLACE DENTAL ASSOCIATES

## Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

*Relaxed, Friendly Atmosphere*



- ◆ Cleaning & Exams
- ◆ Fillings
- ◆ Invisalign®
- ◆ Teeth Whitening
- ◆ Bridges
- ◆ One-Day Crowns
- ◆ Children Welcome

**John C. Park, DMD**

508-473-6500

[parkplacedentalma.com](http://parkplacedentalma.com)

**54 Hopedale St., Suite 8, Hopedale**

*Additional location in Hopkinton – [HopkintonDMD.com](http://HopkintonDMD.com)*

Welcoming  
**NEW**  
Patients

# Sports

## Hopedale Basketball Looking To Go Back-To-Back

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having won it all last year, the Hopedale girls' basketball team knows that this year they have a giant bullseye on their backs.

With everyone is gunning for them, the Blue Raiders look to go back-to-back with another Division 5 State Championship.

The Blue Raiders earned themselves a three seed in the tournament last winter and then proceeded to defeat Bromfield (71-39), David Prouty (69-40), Lee (72-44), Springfield ICS (58-56) the number four seed, and capped it off with a 55-45 win over the number one seed Hoosac Valley.

"Everyone will be shooting for us this year, but we'll be ready," Hopedale Coach Jason Rojee said. "Playing in the DVC (Dual Valley Conference) we play a lot of division 2 and 3 teams and by being a smaller school we have the opportunity to schedule higher divisions during our out of conference games. This opens us up and we're ready by the time the tournament rolls around."

Hopedale has seven returners coming back from last year's State Championship team, however only one was a starter. Rojee believes he has a good nucleus of athletes that will take the court this year.

Freshman Phoebe Carroll, who started as an eighth-grader, will once again be playing the center position for the Blue Raiders when the season gets underway. Carroll averaged 10 points and 10 rebounds for Hopedale and was an instrumental part of the team down the stretch. In the Championship game she hauled down 23 rebounds to lead the Blue Raiders to the win.

"She's a great passer for a



big," the Coach said. "When needed, she will definitely be the one we look for in the big spots this year."

Outside of Carroll, the remainder of the returners all came off the bench last year. Juniors Bea Hava and Sienna Bayley both saw a good number of minutes last year. Both athletes will play the wing, have good shooting skills and can knock down the three when needed; in addition to being able to stretch the opposition's defense. The duo will be both challenging for a starting position.

Three other juniors; Antonia Rolo and Emma Gosselin will see time at the guard position and Callie Costanza will be a physical presence with a good mid-range jump shot. The trio will all be battling for minutes and allow

the team to have depth.

Rounding out the returners is sophomore MacKenzie Reynolds, the team's back-up point guard last year. The sophomore is not only quick and aggressive, but she will also provide some strength. She will most likely be sharing minutes with Rolo this year and the two of them should see their share of early pressure from opposing teams.

The remainder of the varsity squad will consist of guards Lexi Carroll, Hannah Gallerani, Anna Fafard and Mia Casey. Also on the team will be center Layla Huntley and forward Emily Oliver.

Having lost four starters from a productive squad last winter, Rojee believes the girls returning have all learned a lot by playing with them.

"When you play with someone with the caliber of Bre Frongillo, you learn how to not only prepare but get better as the season goes on," Rojee said.

Hopedale will be tested immediately as they open up with the Grafton Tournament where they will go up against Notre Dame in the first game and then either Grafton or St. Paul in the second contest.

"I think that we will be seeing a lot of different defenses thrown at us this year and they'll probably try to press a lot to try and rattle the younger point guards as they bring the ball down court," the Blue Raider Coach said. "Last year they couldn't really press us all that much because Bre could just pull up and knock it down."

Rojee believes that this year's

team will be involved in much more tighter games than in the past despite the squad having decent size and being able to move the ball quickly.

With the talent that the Blue Raiders possess, the main goal will be to be able to advance into the State Tournament, where once there anything is possible.

"A lot of it will depend on the draw we get. If we can keep games close this year and win games, we will be in a good situation," Rojee said. "We match up with teams well, but will take our lumps having a lot of girls new to their roles."

If the girls can adapt quickly to their roles then Hopedale will once again be making their way into the tournament and hopefully make another run at a second straight State Title.

**4 Chamberlain Pines  
Indoor Golf**

Gift Certificates Available

15 North Main St., Bellingham, MA 02019  
www.chamberlainpines.com  
(508) 966-2187 chamberlainpines@gmail.com

**Pre-Targeting: The New Way to Buy Online Display Ads**

Pre-Targeting selects the sites by the concentration of audience interest rather than specific content.

**100% REACH      100% VIEWABILITY**

**100% TRANSPARENCY**

Want to reach your target audience?  
Contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148  
or by email at sue@sueodellconsult.com today for more information.

# Legislature Passes Bill to Protect Open Spaces

**Bill codifies 'no net loss' policy into law for conservation areas in Massachusetts**

The Massachusetts Legislature passed legislation that protects open and public spaces throughout the Commonwealth and ensures their conservation for future generations. This legislation, known as the Public Land Preservation Act, permanently preserves and protects the amount of land designated as open spaces and prevents it from being used for other purposes.

“As we work to mitigate the effects of climate change we see and feel every day, it’s important that we do not allow the quality and acreage of open lands in Massachusetts to decrease,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “Open lands protect against floods, reduce heat from man-made roads and cities, increase carbon capture from plants and soils, protect our clean drinking water, and provide residents with wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities. I want to thank all the conferees, especially Senator DiDomenico for his leadership and Senator Eldridge for his years of attention and perseverance in seeing this legislation passed, as well as Senator Rodrigues for his review and support.”

“I am thrilled that we have reached an agreement on this bill which will protect our public land so our communities can have parks, green spaces, and clean water to enjoy throughout the Commonwealth,” said Senator Sal N. DiDomenico (D-Everett), Chair of the Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading. “Protecting our public lands is so critically important in our state because they also help protect our residents from the effects of climate change; our forests keep our air clean, our trees cool down our streets and communities, and our wetlands mitigate the effects of flooding and storms. I am grateful for Senate President Spilka’s dedication to getting this important bill passed, Senator Eldridge and

Representative Balsler for their years of work on this issue, and all the conference committee members for their help getting this bill over the finish line.”

“I am extremely proud that an agreement has been reached between the House and Senate on the landmark Public Land Preservation Act (PLPA), which will strengthen the state’s commitment to ensuring that there is no net loss of open space in the Commonwealth,” said Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the bill’s original sponsor. “I’m grateful to Senate President Spilka’s commitment to passing this environmental legislation, the work of the conferees, and the persistent advocacy by conservation groups. I also want to acknowledge the godfather of PLPA, Phil Saunders, who dedicated his professional life to passing this bill.”

“With the passage of the Public Lands Preservation Act today, our public lands and open spaces will be preserved and protected for current and future generations to come,” said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her leadership and thank you to Senator Eldridge, Senator DiDomenico, and others for their leadership on this vital issue as well. Ensuring the preservation of our most important public lands, farms, recreational areas, drinking water supply lands, sensitive wildlife habitats, forests, and other conservation and open space lands is critical in our collective efforts to adapt to and confront climate change, while protecting the public health of our communities, and passage of this legislation is a testament to the Senate’s steadfast commitment to protecting our environment at all costs.”

Since its passage as a ballot initiative in 1972, Article 97 of



the Massachusetts Constitution has recognized the importance of public lands. Lands acquired for conservation purposes under Article 97 have protected status, and such lands’ sale or conversion to other use must be approved by a two-thirds vote of each branch of the Legislature. Recognizing the importance of maintaining public lands, the Legislature, working with the Administration, has for many years ensured ‘no net loss’ of open spaces by requiring equivalent replacement land into open space when disposing of Article 97 land.

The conference report passed by the Legislature today codifies a ‘no net loss’ policy into law, making it legally binding. It ensures a public process takes place when a public entity considers disposing of Article 97 land and that replacement land is located nearby and of comparable acreage, fair market value, and natural resource value. The legislation includes a provision that allows for a cash payment in lieu of replacement land, provided that the payment amount is no less than 110 per cent of the value of the land and the money is used to purchase replacement land within three years.

Having passed the Senate and the House of Representatives, the bill now goes before the Governor for his consideration.

# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
12/19/2022	95 Jones Road	\$540,000
12/07/2022	25 Oak Street	\$299,000
11/28/2022	25 Laurelwood Drive	\$399,900
11/28/2022	12 Warfield Street	\$410,000
11/18/2022	18 Driftway Street	\$435,000
11/18/2022	225 S Main Street	\$110,000

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



225 S Main Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$110,000.

Image credit: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)



**Jack Broderick**  
Realtor, ABR



Cell: 774-248-4787  
Office: 508-478-7286  
Fax: 508-478-0664  
jbroderickhomes@comcast.net  
jbroderick@afonsore.com  
[www.afonsorealestate.com](http://www.afonsorealestate.com)



**Looking to advertise in our Real Estate Corner?**  
**Contact**  
**Susanne Odell Farber**  
**at 508-954-8148**  
**or by email at**  
**[sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)**

# Be a leader in your Community ...

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

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

- Prominent homepage presence for 12 months.
- Corporate Profile in Local Town Pages business directory.
  - 4 Sponsored Digital Articles per year.
- Logo/URL under Local Spotlight on Town Homepage.
  - 3-30 day, sidebar ads to use within the year.

*For more package info and to reserve your spot, please contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com) **Only 10 available per site!** They will go quick!*

## localtownpages