Hopedale Holder Hopedale

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April 2023

Override proposed to cover \$1.9 million deficit

Officials look for ways to "share the pain"

By Theresa Knapp

In February, Interim Town Administrator Jeff Nutting held a "financial summit" to detail the town's financial position as it heads into FY24; it was not good news.

"This is as bad as I've ever seen it," he told a room full of town officials and residents. "I don't know how bad it's been in the past but this is really serious...We have to fix what's in front of us, we can't go back and revisit what's behind us."

Prior to receiving state aid, Nutting had calculated the budget shortfall at \$2.25 million, which he called a "huge, huge deficit." After receiving state aid in March, the deficit was reduced to \$1,903,895.

"There are no good answers here, you have a defi-

cit of \$1.9 million," Nutting said, adding the town needs to decide how they are going to "share the pain."

At a subsequent meeting on March 20, the Select Board voted unanimously to support an override which will be proposed to voters in May. An override would need to be approved by voters at both Town Meeting and at the ballot box.

At press time, details - including the final override request - were to be ironed out at a meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee on March 27.

Override scenarios discussed at a March 20 meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee, where they also heard from school officials, included a \$1.35 million override with an average cost to taxpayers of

\$562 in FY24, and a \$1.5 million override with an average cost of \$625 in FY24. Those amounts are in addition to other taxes paid annually.

Taxpayers can calculate their estimated cost at \$41.50 per \$100,000 valuation.

"No one loves paying more taxes but you live in a wonderful community and you want to keep it that way," Nutting said.

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard acknowledged that everyone's expenses are increasing at home but to see the increases at the town level, on a much larger scale, is "more shocking."

Selectman Bernie Stock said his most valuable asset

DEFICITcontinued on page 2



Photos courtesy of Steve Bassignan

Beauty And The Beast Enchants At Hopedale Junior Senior HS

The stars were shining brightly on the stage of Hopedale Jr-Sr High School last month.

The cast of Beauty and the Beast amazed audiences by showing them the remarkable talent that is here in the little town of Hopedale.

The show was led by several seniors: Sam Madigan (Belle),

Tom Mcsweeney (Beast) and Cam Whiting (Gaston).

In a surprising turn, this show marked the return to the stage of Maddie Hodgton as Mrs Potts after a four-year hiatus. Senior Ahaan Singh also ventured

BEAUTY

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DOGGIE DAYCARE





DEFICIT

continued from page 1

is his property, and decreasing services provided by the town and schools could prevent young families from moving into town. He said, "We're going to have to find a [override] number up there that works," referring to the budget presentation on display.

Selectman Brian Keyes cautioned against cutting public safety. "We are at a very serious level of understaff there."

During the budget process, departments were asked to submit a "level services budget" (to keep current services) which totaled \$29,280,378. They also submitted a "requested budget" (to provide best service to residents) which totaled \$29,889,246. Nutting is recommending a budget somewhere in between at \$29,597,582.

Recordings of the meetings, which include Nutting's calculations, can be found at https://bit.ly/3yW9yDg

After-Prom Event Keeps Kids Safe In Hopedale

As anticipated as the tradition of going to the prom is for older high school students, so too is the worry their parents experience over how to keep them safe in those hours after the prom has just ended.

Countless safety videos and public service announcements have been developed to warn students about the dangers of post prom partying, especially when transportation is involved. Since many of today's parents were high school students who attended prom themselves, recollections of prom night celebrations is a reality, not just the topic of some corny low budget documentary. Those recollections are what led to the creation of the after prom party concept.

Intended to give students a place to gather and continue their socializing in a safe, alcohol and drug-free environment, after prom parties are now held locally and all over the country.

Hopedale Jr./Sr. High School first offered this opportunity to

its students in 2000. After several years of attendees going back to the high school after the prom, the after-prom party has since alternatively been hosted at PINZ in Milford, and Hopedale High School.

This year's party is on track to be another big success, once again taking place at PINZ, on Friday, April 28.

Attendees will enjoy bowling, casino games, laser tag, axe throwing, arcade games, a photo booth, temporary tattoos, and a performance by a hypnotist/comedian/magician.

Providing a safe, fun alternative to traditional house parties is not inexpensive though, After Prom Party co-chairs Laura Carroll and Lorene Hunt anticipate this year's gathering will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Local businesses, school organizations and community members fund the after prom party, with the money going towards the venue rental, entertainment, food and drinks, and prizes the







students can win throughout the night.

Students attending the afterprom party will arrive at PINZ between 11 and 11:30pm, and will be there until 5am, so lots of activities need to be scheduled to keep kids engaged, and awake!

The after-prom party is coordinated and chaperoned by parent volunteers; previous years the members were a subcommittee of the PTO but this year the committee became its own entity.

Many hours of planning and fundraising go into ensuring the night runs smoothly, with the hope that parents of younger students will volunteer, even before their child is a participant.

This "Pay it Forward" philosophy ensures that every year will have experienced planners, and that parents of students attending the prom can sit back that evening and enjoy their child's special occasion. Any parent interested in becoming a volunteer chaperone the night of the afterprom party (shifts are usually 1 ½ to 3 hours) can reach out to the committee at afterpromparty@ hopedaleschools.org.

Hopedale Jr./Sr. High School is smaller than other local high

schools, currently there are 142 kids in the junior and senior classes combined. All students in those grades are invited to attend the after-prom party, regardless of whether they go to the prom, as are their underclassman prom dates.

Co-chairs Carroll and Hunt are estimating about 125 kids will head to Pinz to celebrate with their classmates.

Donations are always welcomed and appreciated, there is currently a Unipay link set up (https://unipaygold.unibank.com/Default.aspx?customer ID=1173), or donors can send checks or gift cards in to the Hopedale High School main office (25 Adin Street, Hopedale). Monetary donations of any size will help contribute to the goal, and all donors will be recognized at the event.

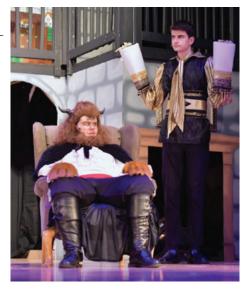
The Hopedale After-Prom Party committee is excited to once again provide an enjoyable, safe place for students to continue the magic and celebrations of prom night. Please consider supporting this goal, and our kids, with your donation or your time.

BEAUTY

 $continued \ from \ page \ 1$

from backstage to center stage, taking on the role of Maurice. Emily Stewart (Babette), Clara Colligan (Claudette) and Taylor Jerrett (Madame De La Grande Bouche) were also featured.

Although the show was anchored by the talent of the senior class, it also gave us a glimpse of great things to come from our underclassmen. Devon







Thomson(freshman) and Dylan Whiting (sophomore) were wildly entertaining as Lumiere and Cogsworth and freshman Turo Rigdon dazzled with his rendition of the Disney classic "Gaston."

The cast was led by Chris Chatham, Lindsay Mayotte

and Matt Gagnon. This trio of dedicated teachers worked tirelessly over the past four months to bring out the best in our kids.

The stage crew, led by seniors Brent Zhang, Nicholas Romano, Luke Tahmoush, Ryan Hayes, Brendan Kracinovich and Vinny Kaushik created an impressive backdrop of the Beast's castle.

Sacred Heart Church "Twice Blessed" Thrift Shop Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are directly impacted by Covid-19. Easter Sale Saturday, April 1st*: In-store special sale! ** Selected Items: POCKET BOOKS SLACKS AND MORE **Except Special Priced and Select Designer Items NEW STORE HOURS 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 Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/twiceblessedthriftshophopedale/ 187 Hopedale Street | Hopedale, MA 01747 | 508.473.1900

13th Annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk

Sponsored by the Hopedale Athletic Boosters Association

By Jess Allen

The 13th annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by the Hopedale Athletic Boosters Association, will be held on Saturday, May 20, at the Hopedale Jr-Sr High School at 25 Adin St., in Hopedale. It is expected that over 250 runners and walkers will be making the trek again over the relatively flat course through downtown Hopedale. A Hopedale version of Heartbreak Hill after mile 2 will separate the pack.

The 5k Run/Walk is held annually in memory of Coach Larry Olsen who led Hopedale's Girls Cross Country and Track teams to tremendous success. Coach Olsen, a highly decorated runner, is greatly missed by Hopedale and the entire running community. It has been wonderful to see the community rally for the past 12 years around this event!

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

Number pickup and race-day registration will begin at 8:00 AM. The pre-entry fee is \$30; \$20 for ages 21 and younger. A free dry-fit T-shirt will be given to those who register by April 20th. Runners can register online at www.active.com or by using the QR code shown here. In addition to the race, there will be a variety of raffle prizes to be won that are being graciously donated by local businesses. The 5K race will begin at 10:00AM. Those who are not able to participate

may also enter a 50/50 raffle here: https://go.rallyup.com/ hopedaleboosters

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

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

Parking, restrooms, complimentary snacks and water and a DJ will be available. Join us on May 20th for a fun filled day of Hopedale Blue Raider pride and community spirit!



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Hopedale DECA sending 20 to International competition in Orlando

By Dylan Whiting

From March 9 to 11, 49 Hopedale DECA members competed and participated in the 63rd Annual Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference in Boston at the Marriott Copley and Hynes Convention Center.

With close to 3,300 participants statewide, Hopedale students competed against up to 45 competitors per category! The National Anthem was sung by Hopedale Jr. Sr. High School's Acapella group of Madeline Hodgdon, Vinny Kaushik, Samantha Madigan, Thomas McSweeney, Ahaan Singh, Cameron Whiting! Recordings of live sessions can be viewed on massachusettsdeca.org/scdc.

All Massachusetts competitors qualified for the competition



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by placing in the top 6 for their events at one of 9 district competitions throughout the state. One competitive area in which Hopedale DECA students found success was the project management series of events where competitors used project management skills to organize real events like a financial literacy fair and career development fair for students in grades 9 - 12, a STREAM activities fair for elementary students, and therapy dog sessions for nurses at a local hospital.

In the Operations Research category, competitors prepared a strategic plan and presentation for a service provided by a business after extensive research. Hopedale competitors learned

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

Overall, Hopedale DECA had For a comprehensive list of all competitors and their achievements, please visit bit. ly/3mXCRT3.

Top 10 medalists at the conference included:

Buying and Merchandising: Brendan Kracinovich, Jackson Phillips, Ryan Reynolds

Hospitality and Tourism: Matt Carroll, Emma Gosselin, Antonia Rolo

Career Development: Wil-

liam Adamski, Kyle Maloney, Camden Parker

Community Awareness: Madeline Hodgdon, Taralyn Moore, Thomas McSweeney

Sales: Sejal Abraham, Lauren Montville, Anthony Ferrucci

Personal Financial Literacy: Robert Minichiello

Financial Consulting: Cameron Whiting

Accounting Applications: Cody McLain

Hopedale DECA would like to thank the people who made attending the state conference possible, including our officer team, who worked tirelessly to organize and prepare for the event; DECA members and competitors, who put in an incredible amount of time and effort to study; parents and guardians who supported their children in this extracurricular success; the 2023 Sponsors of Hopedale DECA, who dramatically reduced costs and expenses for the event; Learning Express of Westborough, Leonardo DRS, Synergy Waste Management, and Target for their Gold level sponsorships; and, of course, our chapter advisor, Talitha Oliveri, who spent hours upon hours tirelessly working to coordinate and execute the state championship.

DECA

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Your Money, Your Independence

Peak Earnings Years Are Your 50s - Parents Maybe, You... Not So Much.



Glenn Brown

DECA

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A myth young professionals face from family, peers, marketing and even financial professionals is that your peak earning years are in your 50's. There's trouble with this assumption in a financial plan. Let me explain.

Do you make over \$162,051

If you're age 42, then congratulations you're a Top 10% earner in the United States per the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Given your earnings at 32,

Moving on to the Interna-

tional Career Development Con-

ference (ICDC) are 20 Hopedale

students bound for Orlando in

April! State Champions compet-

ing in Orlando and members

participating in the Emerging

Leaders Academy from April

Project Management Event

Financial Literacy: Ryan

Hayes, Ahaan Singh, Vinny

22-25 are as follows:

Champions

Kaushik

you may believe a similar trajectory of promotions and compensation will occur over the next 10 years into your "peak earning years".

Let's find age 52 to see the Top 10% earn over... \$150,222.

Wait a minute, must be a mis-

How about age 51? \$160,822.

Look, if you're head of a division or executive entering your 50's, you're exceeding. But by age 55 or older, you're also in the ~1-3% of workforce at that age in those positions.

As I explain to new clients in their late 30's and 40's, ageism is real in corporate America. Some dismiss it, so I ask, "How many peers on your level or above are in their 50's?" They answer, "There are some". Next I ask "How about over 55?". It's then that I get a pause with realiza-

Several things can be done, start with 3 foundational steps.

Act As If. Apologies if you hear Ben Affleck's voice, but act as if you're at peak earnings today. What would you be doing differently? Do you save more? Do you invest differently? Is there a career change? Would one

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY Orlando Participants!

Thrive Leadership Academy: Dylan Whiting, Alex Goode, Riley Mulligan, Matt Carroll, Will Adamski, Kyle Maloney, Cody McLain

Aspire Leadership Academy: Thomas McSweeny, Taralyn Moore, Madeline Hodgdon, Brendan Kracinovich

To help make the cost of ICDC more manageable, Hopedale DECA is looking for sponsorships and donations from local businesses and individuals to offset trip expenses. Please reach out to Talitha Oliveri, advisor, at toliveri@hopedaleschools.org with any questions. Donations can be mailed to Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin St, Hopedale, MA, 01747 or via UniPay at https://unipaygold.unibank.com/, Hopedale Public Schools, DECA Competition/Sponsorships. Thank you for your consideration in helping our students reach their fullest potential!

of you in the household take a risk to work for a start-up, start a small business or become selfemployed? How are your future income streams?

Budget. I know, it's a dirty word. Especially in dual income households making \$250-400K. Yes, we all need our "play hard" moments and/or family experiences, but has a once or twice a year indulgence become a monthly habit because you can?

Effective budgets are not envelopes, obsessive tracking or family meetings, but running a Cash Flow Analysis and review every 6-12 months to see if the projections are your reality. A proper analysis should show projected net free cash flow after all categorized expenses, taxes, and automatic savings allocations.

Savings Prioritization. In conjunction with your Cash Flow Analysis, you should have a clear rationale of where your savings are going. There is balancing between what's for today, the next 1-2 years and for the future un-

Is it 401k, HSA or FSA, 529 plans, IRAs, Roth, brokerage, bank, down payment, emergency or an upcoming experience? Defined percentages or amounts are best, however it's more important to understand the purpose for prioritization and impact of your

In closing, if you've done a financial plan see if the income assumptions are only adjusting for inflation and not bumping up in your 50's or worse, remaining constant until 65. If you haven't, consider a Certified Financial Planner that can help you build, execute and monitor.

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. He is a fee-only Certified Financial PlannerTM helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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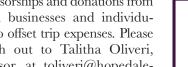
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met: Payment of a higher interest rates (Bonus Rates) and refund for nationwide ATM surcharge transaction fees to a maximum of \$25 per cycle. Statement cycle conditions: Must have a minimum of 8 debit card purchase transactions that post and settle 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.



Business Operations Research **Event Champions Business Services:** Team 1: Charlie Dietrich, Luke Tamoush, Tyler Wilke

Team 2: Kenzie Styles, Aaron Terbush

Individual Champions

Food Marketing: Leah Hodg-

Get Ready for the Spring Invasion!

Defend Your Home Now!

TOP FOUR SIGNS OF A TERMITE INFESTATION

Red flags that could indicate the presence of a termite infestation

This year, WPC Pest and Termite Control and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) are working to spread public awareness about termites during the spring of 2023. With spring on the horizon, termites will begin swarming and could seek out your home for their new nesting space. Because the damage from a termite infestation can easily go unnoticed, WPC Pest and Termite Control is educating homeowners and offering FREE inspections to help idenify the top four signs that signal their home is infested.

"Experts with the NPMA estimate that termites cause \$5 billion in damage every year," said

Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control. "This could mean a costly repair bill for homeowners if they don't spot and stop an infestation in its tracks. Unfortunately, most homeowners don't recognize the signs of an infestation until it is too late."

While pest professionals don't recommend a homeowner inspect their home on their own, there are a few red flags that they should look out for that could signal the presence of an infestation. With the help from experts at NPMA, WPC Pest and Termite is sharing the top four signs that a home has termites:





1. Swarmer or Discarded Wings: Swarmers, also known as reproductives, are young female and male winged termites. In the springtime, after the last freeze, termite swarmers will emerge from their nest to mate and search for a new location to start a colony, which typically includes our homes. Termite swarmers, or their discarded wings near windowsills and doors, are often the first (and only visible) sign of a termite problem.

- 2. Mud Tubes: Subterranean termites, the most destructive termite species, build mud tubes to provide moisture while they travel between their colony and food source. Mud tubes are most often found near the home's foundation and look like encrusted, dry dirt similar to the size of a drinking straw.
- **3. Wood Damage:** Termites tend to eat wood from the inside out, so wood that sounds hollow when tapped often signifies a termite infestation. Additionally, homeowners should also look for blistering pieces of wood.
- **4. Uneven or Bubbling Paint:** Uneven or bubbling paint is often a sign of moisture build-up, which could mean one of two things water damage or termites.

"If you suspect you have a termite infestation, it is best to contact a licensed pest control expert as soon as possible to stop the damage before it gets worse," added Mazzuchelli. "It is also recommended that homeowners have an inspection done every year to ensure their home is safe from termites."

For more information on this pest, or to contact a licensed pest control expert,

Please visit WPC Pest and Termite Control at www.nobugsnopests.com

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Hopedale appointments, resignations, donations and acknowledgements

By Theresa Knapp

At its meetings on Feb. 27 and March 13, the Hopedale Select Board made the following appointments:

Jim Abbruzzese, Community Preservation Committee

Herbert T. Potter, Jr., Community Preservation Committee

Promotion of Call Firefighter Candidate Alec Kaminski-Miller to Call Firefighter

Promotion of Call Firefighter Candidate Andre Aureliano to Call Firefighter

It accepted the following resignations:

Call Firefighter Candidate Tiana Lasorsa

It accepted the following donations:

\$38,500 from The Hopedale Foundation for Rustic Bridge assessment and engineering services

\$1,600 from anonymous donor to fund legal fees associated with West Street litigation

And it acknowledged the following:

Hopedale Annual Town Meeting on May 16 at 7 p.m.

13th Annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk on May 20

An agreement was made with the Clerical Union for a wage increase of 2.5% in FY24 and FY25

An agreement was made with the Highway, Water and Sewer Union for a wage increase of 3% in FY24 and FY25

Department of Environmental Protection has approved the town's permit for the construction of the new Freedom Street finished water storage tank (0.92-million gallons)

Volunteer opportunities for seniors

Are you a senior citizen looking for a way to volunteer in the community? If so, consider any of these volunteer opportunities:

Become a "Grandfriend" at the Bright Beginnings Center Preschool in Hopedale

Become a "Reading Buddy" at the Bancroft Library (Summer Program)

Call BINGO (Monday afternoon)

Assist in preparing the monthly Newsletter for mailing

Deliver Meals on Wheels (Meals are delivered on weekdays only around 11:30 am.

Teach a Class at the Sr. Center

Escort Grocery Bus or Help Us Serve Meals at Our Monthly Lunches

Train to be an AARP Tax Preparer

Source: https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/council-aging

Green River Cannabis holds community outreach meeting

Attendees mostly competitors

By Theresa Knapp

Green River Cannabis Company held a community outreach meeting on March 21 as it continues its quest to open a boutique retail marijuana shop at 150 Hartford Avenue, near the corner of Charlesview Road.

The proposed unit is in the center of the plaza and was previously occupied by an "Asian medical spa" and is approximately 1,500 square feet in area. Green River would be the third retail marijuana store in Hopedale

"I just feel that Hopedale is in a very unique location [with its] traffic flow; I just feel that there's plenty of retail customers to go around," said owner and applicant Constant Poholek, Jr., who is based in Attleboro and who opened his first shop in Greenfield in February.

Poholek said the Hopedale store would be small and offer a boutique experience. The design will have a "rustic upbeat feel" with farm-style architecture. It will sell high-quality goods from Massachusetts-based growers and wholesalers.

"Our motto is to carry a variety of products from smaller growers, a unique variety" he said.

There will be no cultivating or on-site consumption so there will be no odor, he said. Safety measures include security personnel, cameras, alarms, panic buttons, a vault, and steel doors. Poholek said the store will be "more secure than your local bank."

Poholek hopes to be open



Green River Cannabis Co. hopes to open a boutique retail marijuana shop at 150C Hartford Avenue. Credit: Theresa Knapp

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with the average customer being in the store 10 to 12 minutes. He estimates they will have six customers, or fewer, per hour. He will offer pre-ordering for pickup. The site offers 74 parking spaces for the two small plazas on the site.

"We have more than adequate parking," he said, adding his shop will bring customers to the site who might then spend money at neighboring businesses.

Green River, like the other two cannabis retailers in town, will pay a three percent state tax and an additional three percent local tax to the town.

The one-hour Zoom meeting was attended by four people including his potential landlord, one town official, and two competitors. All questions came from one competitor who personally acknowledged the questions were "hostile."

Poholek did address an ongoing question in the community at large: 'Are there enough customers to warrant a third marijuana joint in town?' He restated that Green River is different from the two facilities already established in town. Theirs will be a smaller facility, which some people prefer, and he restated they will offer mostly unique items.

Poholek added, "We don't want to locate ourselves in Hopedale to hurt [the questioner's business] or to hurt [a second marijuana business]. We don't want to cut anyone's throat from a business standpoint."

There are several steps left, at the local and state levels, before the doors of Green River Cannabis could open to the public, including obtaining a Special Permit from the Planning Board and obtaining a final license from the state.

State needs more time to review Town Meeting vote regarding curbside marijuana sales

By Theresa Knapp

In a letter to the town dated Feb. 22, the Attorney General's Office said it needs more time to decide the validity of one remaining article approved by November's Special Town Meeting.

The item at issue is Article 14, a citizens' petition to "alter the restriction against curbside transactions for a Cannabis Retailer," which was approved at the fall meeting.

The letter stated, "The Attorney General's deadline for a decision on Article 14 is extended for an additional 45 days...We will issue our decision on Article 14 on or before April 14, 2023."

According to state law (bit. ly/MunicipalLawReview), "Whenever a town adopts or

amends its general by-laws or zoning by-laws, within 30 days of adjournment of town meeting, the Town Clerk is required to submit them to the Attorney General's Office for review and approval. The Attorney General then has 90 days in which to decide whether the proposed amendments are consistent with the constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth. If the Attorney General finds an inconsistency between the proposed amendments and state law, the amendments or portions of them will be disap-

The full warrant from the Fall 2022 Special Town Meeting can be found at bit.ly/HopedaleSTM2022.





April 17 in observance of Patriots' Day.

that you will help shape the future of the

Library by participating in this survey. The survey will be open from April 1 through April



entered into a drawing for a gift card to a local restaurant.

Copies of the survey will be available at the Library, and will also be inserted into the April edition of the Hopedale Local Town Pages Newspaper. You may choose to use the print form, or respond to the online version by scanning the QR code on the survey form. Completed print surveys may be returned to specially marked collection box locations: Bancroft Memorial Library Circulation Desk or Book Drops, Hopedale Council on Aging, Hopedale Town Hall - Assessor's Office, and Hopedale Post Office Lobby. Your input is important, and we hope that many residents will share their feedback.

Southwick's Zoo Passes

Register for Free Drawing April 1st - 15th

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are sponsoring a free drawing for a limited number of passes to Southwick's Zoo in April. To enter, just fill out a form at the Library between April 1-15. There is one entry per family/per address and you must be a Hopedale resident. The Friends will draw 25 names on Saturday, April 15th, and each will receive two free passes to the Zoo. If your entry is selected, you will receive a phone call from a member of the Friends. Passes will be held at the circulation desk for pick up.

Massachusetts Library Collaborative 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group

The free, biweekly skill building and networking group meetings for people 50 years and older looking for a new job, a new career direction, or a Second Act career continue this month on Zoom. Topics this month: April

5/12 Creating a LinkedIn Profile and April 19/26 LinkedIn - Personal Branding. Please check our website for more information. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Hopedale Library.

Free Seed Library

Stop by the Bancroft Memorial Library and get free seeds from our new Seed Library. There is no limit! If you don't need a full packet, there are smaller envelopes available. Just take what you need. Special thanks to W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Fedco Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, and a Friend of the Library.

Helen Symonds Book Group

The Helen Symonds Book Group will meet on Wednesday, April 5 at 1:00 pm in the Bancroft Memorial Library meeting room to discuss A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. "In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by the Bolsheviks and sentenced to spend the rest of his life on house arrest. Thus, the wealthy count is forced to move from his suite at the Metropol, a grand hotel across from the Kremlin, to a servant's room in the attic. Over the ensuing decades, he witnesses Russia's tumultuous history from his window and must ponder what it means to be a man of purpose." -adapted from CWMARS catalog. Books are available at the Library. The book group is open to everyone! Please sign up at the Library circulation desk.

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 Friends of the Hopedale Library

New England Nature Program: Wildlife in Your Backyard

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to present New England Nature Program: Wildlife in Your Backyard on Wednesday, April 26, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Join us as Joy Marzolf talks about wildlife that visit the Greater Boston area. From dragonflies and butterflies to birds and mammals, a wide variety of animals may visit area backyards. Learn about which animals you will most likely see depending on the season. Find out more about our local wildlife, as well as occasional visitors, and what brings them to our neighborhoods. To register for this free program, please stop by the Library or call 508-634-2209. All ages are wel-

Raffle Baskets

Stop by the Library during National Library Week (April 23rd-29th) to purchase gift basket raffle tickets to support the Friends of the Hopedale Library. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The baskets will be available for viewing starting April 18th. All monies raised go towards library programming, including summer reading, museum passes, and adult programs.

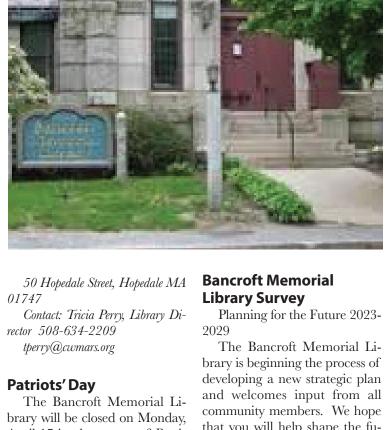
FlowerPower.org **Fundraiser**

Please support The Friends of the Hopedale Library by shopping our FlowerPower.org fundraiser through 5/15! You can order flowers, bulbs, and other plants online and have orders shipped directly to you. The Friends of the Hopedale Library earns 50% which goes right back to the Library. Shop at http:// hopedalelibrary.fpfundraising.

About the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Hopedale

Library, founded in 1983, is an



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8th Annual Spring **Egg Hunt**

With Special Guest

Sunday, April 2, 2023 Hopedale Community House Lawn 1:00PM – 2:00PM hunting will begin at 1:15PM

Come join us for egg hunting, games, music, contests, prizes and light refreshments. Please bring a basket or decorated egg carton to collect eggs.

Pictures with Easter Bunny 12-2 bring gift card for food for Milford Food Pantry or VENMO donation to

Santas Porch at:@santasporch

If you would like to help with donations for food or volunteering, email: djmikerutkowski@yahoo.com if you would like to make a monetary donation do so at: @Michael-Rutkowski-5 on VENMO



LIBRARY

continued from page 8

active volunteer, non-profit organization consisting of town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with Library staff and the Trustees to support the Library in providing funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library's regular operating budget. The Friends of the Library meet the second Wednesday of the month, September through June, at 6:30 pm. New members and ideas are always welcome!

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

Registration is encouraged but not required for all events. Please call Mrs. Kraimer at (508)634-2209 to register!

April Storywalk®

The Bancroft Memorial Library will present a Storywalk® from April 10th through April 22nd on the Hopedale Community House Lawn. It will feature Juna's Jar by Jane Park (illustrated by Felicia Hoshino).

Storytimes with Mrs. Kraimer

Mrs. Kraimer's Storytimes will resume the week of April 17! Storytime - Tuesdays at

10:30am (Ages 3-5) After School Storytime -Wednesdays at 3:15pm (Ages

Mother Goose Rhyme Time - Thursdays at 10:30am (Birth- 3 years)

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!

Super Mario Mania!

Drop by on Saturday, April 15 from 11am-1pm for Super Mario Mania at the Library! Make crafts, play games, and have fun! We will even have a photo booth! All ages welcome.

Circus, Science & Silliness

Learn how science is used to perform amazing circus tricks with Cherie & Dave's fun, interactive circus style show on Wednesday, April 19 at 2pm. Space is limited. Registration is required. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hopedale Library. Ages 5+

Minecraft Pixel Painting

Paint your favorite Minecraft character on an 8x8 canvas on Wednesday, April 19 from 5-6pm or Friday, April 21 from 2-4pm. While supplies last! Ages 9+

Pre-Teen Advisory Board

The Pre-Teen Advisory Board will meet on Monday, April 24 at 5pm. Open to ages 10-14. Free pizza! Can't make it but would like to share your ideas? Stop by and let us know!

Pre-Teen Book Club

Enjoy reading and discussing books with friends? Join the club! Our first Pre-Teen Book Club will meet on Monday, May 1 at 5pm to discuss, The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Copies are available in the Children's Room. Members will choose the next book at the meeting. Ages 9+

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





Senate Passes \$368.7 Million Supplemental Budget

Bill funds essential services relied on by vulnerable populations, extends COVID-era measures, authorizes public works bonding to support cities and towns

The Massachusetts State Senate passed a \$368.7 million supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23). The legislation funds vital services that support vulnerable populations and address food insecurity, housing instability, the state's long-term COVID-19 response, economic development, essential support services for incoming immigrants and refugees, and more. Notably, the bill extends initiatives first implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as outdoor dining, remote public meeting access, and support for assisted living residences. The bill further authorizes \$814.3 in bonding to bolster the Commonwealth's clean water and other public works projects for cities and towns, as well as to support the Commonwealth's ability to compete for competitive federal grant funds.

"This supplemental budget ensures that our Commonwealth continues to support the most vulnerable among us while also building on the lessons we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I'm proud to say that this body has proven once again that it has the courage to chart a course that leaves no place or person in the Commonwealth behind. As I have said since the start of the pandemic, we must go 'back to better,' not 'back to normal.' With today's supplemental budget, I am pleased to see the Senate take one more step toward this goal. I would like to thank my colleagues, especially Chair Rodrigues and his dedicated team at Senate Ways and Means, for their hard work and contributions to this supplemental budget."

"As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, the Legislature has taken the necessary steps to keep the economy of the Commonwealth on a firm footing. The passage of this supplemental budget today utilizes robust tax revenues to its fullest effect, making substantial investments in economic development, housing, education, and the social service safety net. Those investments, along with a forward-thinking long-term bond authorization, will keep Massachusetts as a leader in the key economic sectors for decades to come," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "Thanks to the strong leadership of Senate President Spilka, and the commitment of my colleagues in the Senate, we sent a clear message to the people that we will always look to protect our marginalized communities, support our education and health care workforce, and invest in local infrastructure as the Commonwealth continues to recover from the impact of the pandemic."

The bill invests \$368.7 million to address several time sensitive needs for an array of programs relied on by some of the most vulnerable residents of the Commonwealth, including \$130 million for SNAP food assistance benefits to provide a glide path for families who were receiving enhanced SNAP benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, \$68 million for the Early Education C3 stabilization grant program, \$65 million for the continuation of free school meals, \$45 million for emergency shelter assistance, and over \$40 million to support affordable housing for immigrants and refugees. Other measures funded in the bill include:

- \$8.3 million for judgments, settlements, and legal fees
- \$7 million for coordinated wraparound services for incoming immigrants and refugees
- \$2 million for the reimbursement of SNAP benefits for victims of benefit theft
- \$2 million for the preparation and execution of the 114th National NAACP conference, which is taking place in Massachusetts in 2023, which was adopted via an amendment from Senator

Liz Miranda

- \$1 million for a public awareness campaign to educate the public about the misleading tactics of so-called crisis pregnancy centers and their lack of medical services
- \$250,000 for Reproductive Equity Now's free abortionrelated legal hotline

The bill also authorizes \$814.3 billion in capital expenditures to support economic development projects. Notably, these include \$400 million for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, which provides grants to cities, towns, and other public entities for infrastructure projects, and \$200 million for state matching funds to compete for federal grant opportunities, including those funded through the CHIPS and Science Act, which encourage innovation in Massachusetts. Other bonding items authorized by the bill include:

- \$104 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund
- \$34 million for a program to revitalize underutilized properties
- \$30 million for state matching funds to compete for federal broadband expansion grants and improve state broadband infrastructure
- \$15 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative, which supports innovation within the state's manufacturing industry, including by offering technical assistance to manufacturers and attracting talent from outside of the state
- \$14 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Accelerate Program
- \$9.3 million for broadband middle mile supports
- \$8 million for the Smart Growth Housing Trust Fund

Recognizing the societal shifts that have taken place during the pandemic, the bill also addresses several pandemic-era related measures, including:

- Permanently allowing public corporations and nonprofits to hold meetings by means of remote communication
- Permanently allowing notaries public to conduct remote online notarization using communication technology
- Extending the ability of graduates and students in their last semester of nursing education programs to practice nursing in accordance with guidance from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing
- Extending the ability of municipalities to allow outdoor dining services
- Extending the ability of public bodies to allow remote participation by members in public meetings
- Extending flexibilities given to cities and towns that allow for town meetings to be held in hybrid or fully remote capacities and that ease the threshold for a quorum
- Extending the ability of nurses employed by assisted living residences to provide skilled nursing care in accordance with valid medical orders, provided the nurse holds a valid license to provide such care

Senator Liz Miranda (D-Boston) and Senator Robyn K. Kennedy (D-Worcester) both gave their inaugural Senate speeches during consideration of the supplemental budget. Senator Miranda spoke on behalf of her amendment for \$2 million to support the NAACP's 114th national conference, which will be taking place in Massachusetts in 2023. The amendment was subsequently unanimously adopted. Senator Kennedy highlighted how the supplemental budget's \$68 million investment in C3 early education grants will provide crucial stability to the early education sector.

As a previous version of this legislation has passed the House of Representatives, the two branches will now reconcile the differences between the bills.



Spanish Culinary Deliciousness

The Hopedale Junior-Senior High School Spanish Club honed their cooking skills last month. Word on the street is that it was delicious!





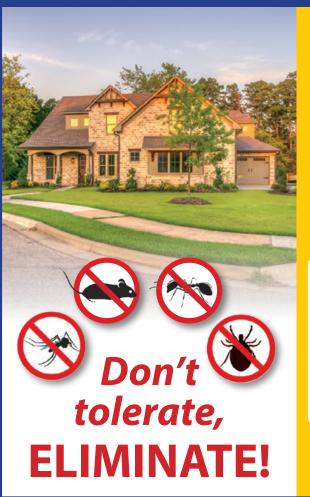
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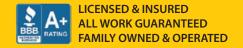


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Living Healthy

Milford -Franklin Eye Center World-Class Eyecare Closer to Home

By: Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D. Milford Franklin Eye Center

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing eye care to the community for almost 5 decades. Our mission is to deliver state-of-the-art eyecare by physicians, surgeons and optometrists who are predominantly from the community, live in the community and dedicate their careers to serving the community. During the past decades we have performed hundreds of thousands of procedures, many of those are complex and are only available in Boston. We serve everyone in the community, regardless of insurance coverage, race, or disability. Our practice physicians are local and are available daily for emergencies and difficult cases. Other practices do not do the same and often times the provider you see in those practices is not even a physician. If they have physicians, they are only there sporadically. When it comes to eyecare, ask your friends and neighbors who is the best? Your eyes deserve the best.

Are all eyecare providers equal? Unfortunately, they are not. For example did you know if you have cataract surgery in a practice with no local ophthalmologist present daily you may end up referred to Boston in an emergency? We have you covered as our ophthalmologists (eye physicians/ surgeons) are local and available on a daily basis. Did you know that our practice is the only practice taking calls for our local emergency room at Milford Regional Hospital? The only practice! Other practices refuse to take call. We have been doing the same for 5 decades and are dedicated to you.

Milford Franklin Eye Center has a better vision for your eyes and is dedicated to our community. Our ophthalmologists have performed hundreds of thousands of surgeries, have lectured nationally and internationally and trained junior physicians and other ophthalmologists form prestigious academic institutions. Choose wisely- Your eyes deserve the best.

With offices located in Milford, Franklin and Millis (Millis Eye Center), and soon a new satellite office in Hopkinton, our own award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 60, 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 surgi-

cal 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 deliver comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your eyecare provider is still asking you to travel far away for eyecare or surgery, call us for a second opinion.

Have you wondered where do other physicians and even ophthalmologists go for their eyecare and surgery? You guessed it! We have been privileged to care for other physicians and we have operated on other ophthalmologists. Those who know best about eyecare and surgery have consistently chosen us for their care and continue to do the same.

Our practice is proud to offer the latest and best in medical and surgical ophthalmology. For glaucoma we have the latest in selective laser trabeculoplasty to reduce eye pressure and offer Durysta implants to reduce dependance on eye drops. We also use stents and other procedures with cataract surgery to lower eye pressure and manage glaucoma. Our surgeons were 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. We have the only fellowship trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the area. We have the only dedicated optical shop offering a boutique style frames and glasses for our precious and unique little eyes. Our vitreoretinal specialists are world- renowned and have written the books on retina eye care. They have also trained other students and fellows in this

We are particularly proud of our surgery center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. This facility is in your backyard and is proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford. Our surgery center passed certification and accreditation by the most rigorous State and National accredi-





tation agencies.

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety, and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the PanOptix and Vivity lens implants. We have trained local and out-of-state surgeons on how to perform cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches.

We are also proud of our 5 optometrists who deliver comprehensive and routine eyecare to our community and for the entire family. They are all accepting new patients and they have a zero-wait time appointments. They are here to help daily, with availability of late and Saturday appointments. All our optometrists work under the direct supervision and immediate access to our ophthalmologists/specialists.

We are equally proud of our optical shop which is the only local shop to have its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. Our shop is run by an optician with 4 decades of experience.

0

MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



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Shalin Zia, O.D.



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EYES

continued from page 12

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 10:00 am Phone Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance Class	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 10:00 am Phone Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance Class	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:30 am Parklands Walk 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
CLOSED FOR PATRIOTS' DAY HOLIDAY	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 10:00 am Phone Photography 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance Class	9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:00 pm Lunch at Senior Center 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:30 am Hopedale Cemetery Walk No Watercolor Class 10:00 am Knitters' Group 1:00 pm COA Board Meeting 1:00 pm Tai Chi	10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center Lunch 12:30 pm BINGO	9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance Class Errand Van Available	10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	9:30 am Parklands Walk No Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi Errand Van Available	10:00 am Re-boot Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes



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Sports-

Hopedale Basketball In The Clark University Tournament Final

By Christopher Tremblay Staff Sports Writer

Having won its fair share of Dual Valley Conference Championships over the years, Hopedale is looking to add yet another title to its resume.

At the time of this writing, the Blue Raiders were 16-4 overall and 8-2 within the DVC, giving them another League Championship.

Although Hopedale had encountered a few injuries throughout the season, the Blue Raiders were still able to come out on top of the DVC.

Playing in a tough league, Hopedale Coach Tony Cordani thought that the year was going to be a really competitive one, but to come out winning the league again he was really pleased with his team's performance, especially after the team lost senior Charlie Dietrich to a season-ending concussion.

With Dietrich sitting on the bench, Hopedale relied on its other four seniors to take the reins and lead this team into the post-season. Senior co-captains Andrew Deppe (forward) and Cody Dicken (point guard) put the team on their backs willing the team to success. Center David manning and forward and former sixth man Ryan Reynolds also aiding in the cause. Sophomore off guard Patrick Madden along with the four seniors made up the starting Hopedale rotation.

Also contributing to the Blue Raiders success this season have been senior guard Troy Hobson, junior forward Cam Parker, junior Hudson Terando, guard Lucas Lavesseur and sophomore guard Robbie Manning.



Offensively Deppe and Madden are averaging close to 15 points per game, while Dicken is knocking down around nine points. Deppe is currently second in the league in scoring while Madden s right behind him in third place.

Being a senior laden team Hopedale has found their rhythm throughout the season, especially down the stretch.

"We lost Andrew for a couple of games that lead to our two league losses. It was a little bump in the road, but we recovered," Cordani said. "Then we lost Charlie, most likely for the remainder of the year."

While Hopedale waits for the Division 5 State Tournament to beginv, the squad was selected to play in the Clark University Tournament in Worcester after a two-year hiatus. 2020 was the last time the tournament took place but Covid put a stop to it over the last two seasons

The Clark Tournament is a prestigious tournament in which 43 schools are eligible to take part in, but only 16 teams (8 large and 8 small schools) are granted invitations based on their power rankings. Hopedale found its way into the 80-year-old Central Mass Tournament through the small division.

"We've been lucky enough to have been a part of this tournament a number of times through the years since I've been associated with Hopedale (24 years)," the Blue Raider Coach said. "It's great to get back into it; it's a huge goal to get an invite." Entering the prestigious tournament Hopedale was awarded the number three seed in the small division. The Blue Raiders defeated Oxford in the first round and then took out the number two seed in Maynard. Hopedale will next go up against the number one seed David Prouty in the Championship game of the tournament.

"Making the finals is a great honor in such a prestigious tournament," Cordani said. "It would bring great satisfaction to win it all; it would be a nice feather in our hat."

Following the Clark Tournament Hopedale will begin to get ready for the State Tournament, where they are hoping to get as many home games as they can along the way.

"Once there I think we'll be very competitive if we continue o play good basketball like we have over the last few weeks," Cordani said. "This is a great group of kids that are looking to make a deep run. If we can play our style of defense and rebound to our capability we'll be in every game."

In the boys small school division of the Clark Tournament Finals, Hopedale gave number one seed David Prouty all they could handle going to double overtime before falling 51-49. Participating in the Division 5 State Tournament the Blue Raiders defeated Millis 61-47 in the first round and then lost to Holbrook 60-46 in the Round of 16.

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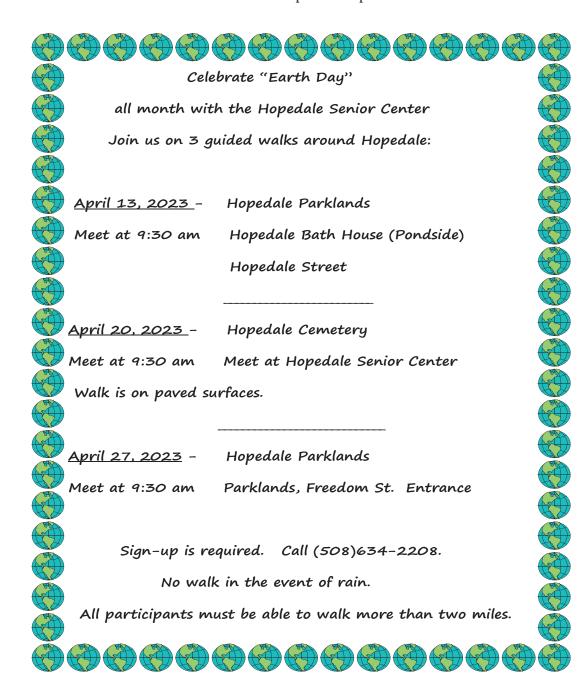


The Hopedale Council on Aging is seeking volunteer drivers and subs.

Meals are distributed from the meal site in Upton, MA and delivered to frail seniors in Hopedale. Volunteers will be reimbursed for mileage.

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday before 1:00 pm. Your commitment can be as little as two (2) hours per month.

Please call the Sr. Center at (508)634-2208 for details. Help us keep elders in their homes.



Real Estate Corner Recent Home Sales

Date Hopedale Amount

02/28/2023 228 Laurelwood Drive #C \$415,000

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



As of press time, only one home had sold in Hopedale in the previous 30 days: 228 Laurelwood Drive #C sold for \$415,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com



Jack Broderick Realtor, ABR



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