

Mendon woman crowned Mrs. New England Petite 2023

Mendon's own Olivia Brewer has been crowned Mrs. New England Petite 2023. She was crowned March 12, 2023 in Concord, New Hampshire at the New England Petite Pageant held at the Concord City Auditorium.

The New England Petite Pageant is a platform-based organization that is heavily involved in community service and appearance. The titleholders will also have fun by participating in photo shoots, queen outings, and titleholders parties.

August 9 of this year, Olivia will go on to compete in the 2023 Mrs. Petite USA National pageant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Petite USA Organization is specifically designed for ladies 5'6" and under in height, good moral character and a United States Citizen. The organization also offers eight different age divisions from 4



Olivia Brewer, Mrs. New England Petite 2023 pictured with her husband Robert S Brewer. Courtesy photo

to 50+ years old.

Olivia has lived in Mendon for almost two years and she works with children in the private sector. Her platform is Feed My Community. She has been able to volunteer on different levels

such as running her own food drive, helping families who are struggling with food insecurity by connecting them with local food pantries and the food Backpack Program (for school aged children).

After mulling over decisions, excitement will kick in for Nipmuc seniors



Nipmuc Regional senior Sabrina Boyle will study computer science in college, after developing an interest for it in high school. Courtesy photo

By Linda Chuss

For years, Nipmuc Regional High School students have had opportunities to explore fields of study from forensics to theater. That makes it easier when figuring out what to do after graduation, but it's still a big decision.

"High school is largely mapped out for students," said Allison Towne, a Nipmuc school counselor. "This is an important decision for them. It's a time of transition and can sometimes be

NIPMUC

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Taft Public Library Calendar of Events

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ADULT PROGRAMS

To register for an event, click on the Library Event Calendar and Registration link at the top of the library's homepage (www.taftpubliclibrary.org).

Handcrafting Group

Let's get crafty. Join us on Wednesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 19 at 2 p.m. downstairs in the library and get your craft on. Bring your own craft project, whatever it might be, to work on while you visit. Intended for adults. Crafts are not supplied.

Learn Contract Bridge with Val Fay

Join Val Fay, a contract bridge instructor for over twenty years, as he guides you through the game of contract bridge. Designed for ages 16 and up, the classes Val offers will include upgraded instructions at the

beginning of every class, starting with the basics. Those interested should contact him at 508-478-3049 to sign up. All bridge players are forever students of the game, no matter what level they feel they've achieved. Whether you play or have always wanted to learn, join us on Tuesdays starting in April from 12 - 4 p.m. at the Taft.

Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club will meet on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Adult Book Clubs are held on the second Monday of the month.

For upcoming book clubs contact the library at 508-473-3259 to request copies of the books or log in to your account from our website to request them through interlibrary loan. The next Adult Book Club

books are as follows:

May: *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka and short stories from *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

June: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune

College Prep 101 with Hannah Sieber

Ready to learn about SAT prep, college essays, and strategies to success? Join Hannah Sieber, owner of TriTutoring LLC, for a college prep workshop on Tuesday, April 11 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Students and parents are both welcome. Registration is required as space is limited.

Cooking with Chef Rob Scott

Chef Rob Scott returns with a whole new set of cooking demonstrations on Zoom. Rob joins us virtually from his kitchen in Long Island. All ages

are welcome to participate. The recipes will be sent out before each class if you want to cook alongside Chef Rob. Sessions are at 7 p.m. The next session is:

Tuesday, April 18: Avocado Salmon Salad with Lemon Herb Dressing and Spring Lemon Crumble Muffins

Please visit our website to register for the session.

German Conversation Club

Are you looking for a place to practice what German you remember or to improve your vocabulary? German Conversation Club is no pressure, just fun. Lead by Library Assistant (and Mendon resident) Monika Schmid, the group meets the last Monday of each month. The next German Conversation Club will be on Monday, April 24 at 6 p.m. Registration is required. To register, visit our website.

Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club

The Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club meets downstairs in the library on a quarterly basis. Those interested are asked to stop at the downstairs desk to sign the Footnotes registration sheet and pick up a copy of the latest book. Next discussion session: Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Discussion of Nathaniel Philbrick's book *In the Heart of the Sea*.

Upcoming books in the Footnotes series: *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo, *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre, *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff

Fantastical Folktales of Flowers with Diane Edgecomb

From the dramatic to the



Taft Public Library. Courtesy photo

sublime to the wildly humorous, world stories about flowers are deeply entertaining. As retold by award-winning storyteller and theatre artist, Diane Edgecomb, this evocative tapestry of story and song brings new meaning to favorite garden flowers. Diane will be accompanied by Celtic harper Margot Chamberlain for this one-hour performance event. Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. upstairs in the library. To register, visit our website. This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Mendon Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Fly Tying with James Thach

Join local resident and fly-fishing enthusiast James Thach for a hands-on introduction to fly tying on Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m. upstairs in the library. Each participant will learn how to tie a fly they can take with them. Must be 14 years or older. Limit of five participants. Registration required.

The Orange Jellyfish Craft Pebble Art

Join us on Friday, April 28 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. to create a unique art picture using various types of stones. Kerry Consentino Vilorio, local artist and owner of The Orange Jellyfish, will demonstrate and guide participants through the project. Registration and \$25 prepayment required. Checks can be made out to the Friends of the Taft Library and dropped off at the library's upstairs circulation desk. This program is jointly sponsored by the Taft Public Library and the Friends of the Taft Public Library.

Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting

The Friends of the Library will meet on Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. downstairs in the library's Art Holmes Community

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American Legion Post receives free car from Imperial

Vehicle will help transport vets to medical appointments



In February, Imperial Cars donated a vehicle to American Legion Post 85 to help transport veterans to medical appointments. Pictured here are (L) Rich Allain, Commander's Liaison for American Legion Post 85; Mike Penner, Executive General Manager at Imperial Cars; and Rob Lefort, Commander of Post 85. Courtesy photos

By Theresa Knapp

When American Legion Post 85 was in need of a vehicle to transport veterans to medical appointments, Commander's Liaison Rich Allain took to the airwaves of WOON 1240, specifically the radio show of Dave Richard and Gary Smith who often allow him to promote Legion services.

"We have been having trouble getting vets in northern Rhode Island, and the southern [Massachusetts] towns that border Rhode Island, to their medical appointments so I was talking about it on the radio," says Allain. Then, later that day, "All of a sudden, the telephone call comes in from [owner] Kevin Meehan from Imperial

Cars who says 'Hey, we want to donate a vehicle to you guys.'"

In February, Imperial Cars held a ceremony and donated a 2008 Chevy Impala with low mileage to the Legion. They also donated two years of free maintenance.

"The car is like mint, it's clean, and it's beautiful," says Allain. "This is going to help everybody. It's going to help them in Providence too, we can take care of our vets in this area."

Typically, veterans call the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Providence to arrange a ride to a medical appointment but the demand is incredibly high, says Allain. In addition, after an appoint-



"Someone in our office heard the radio program," says Mike Penner, Executive General Manager of Imperial Cars. "We donated the vehicle because we care about veterans and first responders, and we felt it was the right thing to do."



ment at the VA, vets are often referred to an outside specialist on another day which means they need another ride which creates an additional burden on the transportation system.

"This is the area that the guys have been having a real hard time getting to their appointments, and we're trying to alleviate some of that burden and by getting someone to donate a car,

that's just going to do the trick," says Allain, noting the Legion currently has nine volunteer drivers.

Allain says the Legion is very grateful for the car.

"A big thank you to Kevin Meehan and the crew at Imperial Cars and [service] maintenance, we so appreciate what they did for us in donating the vehicle; and I really want to

thank Rob Lefort who allowed me to take this project and really work with it."

If veterans need a ride to a medical appointment, they should call the American Legion at 401-766-7585 and give their information to the person who answers, then a Legion member will get back to them to arrange the ride.

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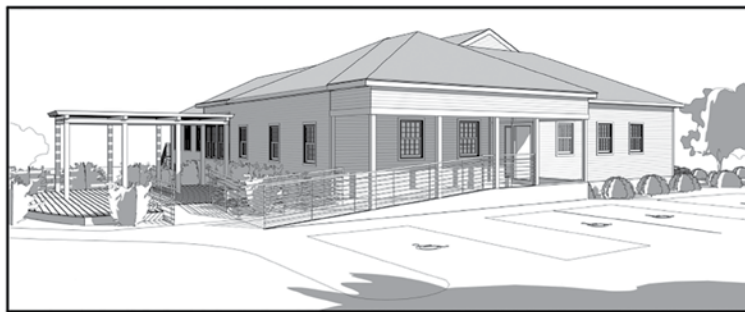
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Mendon Senior Center Update: Expansion and Programs

The Mendon Council on Aging is pleased to announce that the Senior Center expansion project is beginning to move forward after the long pandemic delay. In the past several weeks, we have met with some of the original designers, the Select Board and other members of town government. We anticipate an article for funding to be raised at the Annual Town Meeting this May. If the funding passes, we then will proceed to the detail Engineering and Building Design Phase, providing us with a projected cost for future town approvals. We will work to get the best quotes and finalize design requirements. We also have



A rendition of the proposed renovation to the Mendon Senior Center. Courtesy photo

meetings planned with State Senator Ryan Fattman's staff to explore what support we may receive from them and have also reached out to State Representative Brian Murray. Stay tuned: "things are moving again".

Your help is needed!

Attend the May Town meeting on Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7 p.m. and support the Senior Center Expansion Article.

SMOC Fuel Assistance Deadline - April 30

The SMOC Fuel Assistance program is still accepting applications until April 30, 2023. Please don't wait until you are out of oil. Mendon residents can call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to request an instruction checklist and to make a free confidential appointment.

2023 Mendon Senior of the Year - Nominations Being Accepted until June 1

The Mendon Council on Aging is now accepting nominations for the 2023 "Senior Citizen of the Year". Since 1978, a deserving person (or persons) has been awarded the annual distinction of Senior Citizen of the Year. The chosen Mendon resident, age 60 or older, generally exemplifies a spirit of public service and has made a positive difference in the community. Written nominations will be accepted until June 1 and the award will be presented in September. Nomination forms are available at the Mendon Senior Center or on-line from the Council on Aging home page at www.mendonma.gov. Please drop off or mail nominations to the Senior Center at 62 Providence Street, Mendon. Please

call 508-478-6175 with any questions.

New Program! Coming soon - Learn How to Take Better Pictures with Your Phone

Join professional photographer, Steve McGrath, for a five-week Photography class beginning Tuesday, May 2 at 1:30 p.m. Whether you want to perfect your phone photography skills or are a new Digital photography enthusiast with your own camera, our instructor Steve McGrath, an accomplished, professional photographer with over thirty years' experience, has something to offer. Learn how to create great images on your phone. Digital camera beginners, learn from an expert. The cost for this grant subsidized program is \$25 for five weeks. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center at 62 Providence Street to register.

Mendon Town Wide Progressive Yard Sale—June 10 Now Accepting Registrations

The Friends of Mendon Elders are now accepting registrations for Annual Town-Wide Progressive Yard Sale to be held on Saturday, June 10 from 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. If you would like to register to hold a yard sale of your own that day, you may obtain a registration form at the Senior Center or on-line at the official Council on Aging website via <http://www.mendonma.gov/>. The fee is \$20. We thank you for your continued support. This is one of our biggest fundraisers so that we may

provide the seniors of Mendon with programs and also furnish the Center with needed essentials. If you would like to get involved, please contact Friends President Dottie Garceau at 508-561-8758 or Vice President Betsy Edsall at 508-779-7580, or the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175.

Yard Sale Donations – For those who would like to donate items, please hold on to your donations for the time being. In May you can drop off your usable items on Monday—Thursday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please, please, please no electronics including computers, monitors, printers, and TV's. Also, no extra-large furnishings, exercise equipment or clothing.

Rescheduled Program Planning for Medicare – Countdown to 65

The Mendon Senior Center will be hosting Planning for Medicare on Wednesday, May 10, at 1 p.m. This presentation led by a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative is geared towards individuals approaching 65 and Medicare Eligibility. Topics covered include health insurance information outside of employer sponsored coverage, such as an explanation of Medicare, the Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and programs available to early retirees, and COBRA. This is a great presentation for those who may still be working and looking to transition to Medicare. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register for this free program.

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Reader Submission Deadline is the 25th day of the month preceding the publication date. For example, items should be submitted by Feb. 25 to be included in the March issue. Please submit to editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com

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New law may offer financial opportunities



Mark Freeman

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Your own decisions and actions typically determine your financial strategies. But outside events can affect your choices, too. And that may be the case with the recent passage of the SECURE 2.0 Act.

This piece of legislation covers many areas. But here are some changes that may be of interest to you, depending on your situation:

If you're a retiree ...

- *Higher age for RMDs* – The

age at which you must take withdrawals — known as required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and 401(k) has increased from 72 to 73, effective this year. (If you turned 72 in 2022, but still haven't taken your first RMD, you will need to do so this year.) And in 2033, the RMD age will increase again, to 75. You don't have to wait until these ages before taking withdrawals, but the new age limits may affect your withdrawal decisions.

- *Lower penalties for missed RMDs* – If you don't take at least the RMD for a given year, you could face tax penalties. Previously, this penalty was 50% of the amount you were supposed to have taken but now it's reduced to 25%.

- *New options for qualified charitable distributions* – If you're 70½ or older, you can make a one-time qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$50,000 to entities that previ-

ously couldn't receive these QCDs, including charitable remainder annuity trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts and charitable gift annuities that meet certain criteria. Because QCDs are typically excluded from your taxable income and could satisfy some or all of your required RMDs, which are otherwise taxable, these expanded opportunities may prove beneficial from a tax standpoint. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if and how QCDs make sense for your situation.

If you're still working ...

- *Roth contributions to retirement plans* – Starting this year, if you participate in a 401(k) or similar plan, you can take your employer's matching and other contributions on a Roth basis. While these contributions will count as taxable income, they can ultimately be withdrawn, along with any earnings they generate, tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.

If you're a business owner ...

- *Increased tax credit for starting a retirement plan* – If you have 50 or fewer employees, you can now claim a startup credit covering 100% — up from 50% — of the administrative costs of opening a 401(k) plan, up to \$5,000 for each of the first three years of the plan.

- *Employer contribution credit* – You may now be able to get a tax credit based on employee matching or profit-sharing contributions. This credit is capped at \$1,000 per employee and phases out gradually over five years.

- *Military spouse tax incentive* – If you have 100 or fewer employees who earn at least \$5,000 annually, you can earn a tax credit of up to \$500 for three years if you make military spouses eligible for a retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or SEP IRA. You can receive the credit for the year in which the military spouse is hired, plus the next two taxable years.

These aren't the only provi-

sions in the SECURE 2.0 Act that may be relevant to you, and some parts of the new law go into effect in the future. You may want to contact your financial and tax advisors to see just how you might ultimately be affected by this legislation, and how you could take advantage of it.

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TAFT LIBRARY

continued from page 2

Room for their monthly board meeting. Board meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., unless it falls on a holiday or during a school vacation. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend. If you plan on attending, it's always a good idea to call the library at 508-473-3259 or email the Friends at friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com to confirm the date and time of the meeting. The group will do its best to post any meeting changes on the Taft Library website.

View our Recently Completed 5-Year Strategic Plan

The Taft Public Library Strategic Planning Committee

has finished its work on the Taft Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 and it can now be viewed on our website www.taftpubliclibrary.org. It's the culmination of a year-long effort to meet with staff, patrons, and local organizations to find out what they like about the library and what they see as the unique challenges and opportunities for growth at the library over the next five years. The library and the committee would like to thank everyone who provided feedback. The committee was comprised of Library Director Andrew Jenrich, Children's Librarian Tara Windsor, Library Trustee Leesa Michael, Library Trustee Alison Chu, Charles Noel, Sue Ruggiero, Savannah Histen, Naomi Vogt, Mary Anne Moran, and Lauren Scott.

TAFT CHILDREN'S NEWS

Registration is required for all programs. Please log onto our website www.taftpubliclibrary.org and find the events page to register along with more information for the programs.

Itty Bitty Story Time

Itty Bitty Story time is designed for our youngest patrons birth to 3 years old. Join us for a lot of fun on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Story & Craft Time

Join us for story and craft time. Perfect for the preschool-aged child. All sessions take place Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Alphabet Storytime

It's all about the alphabet. Each week we will focus on a different letter. We will read a couple of books, sing songs, and

learn about the letter of the week. Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee and Conversations & Puppet Storytime

Dates: Wednesdays: 4/5/23 and 5/3/23

Time: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections, learn about early childhood development and family friendly resources. The library will supply Muffin House muffins.

Please stay for the 10:30 a.m. Puppet Storytime. Join Newton & Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30-minute show, children can greet the puppets. Geared for children 2 to 5 years, but all are welcome.

Kidding Around Yoga

We will learn yoga poses, dance, sing, and meditate. This class is all about fun. All abilities are welcome. Mats are available, or feel free to bring your own. Wednesday, April 12, Preschool - 9:30 a.m. and all ages - 4:30 p.m.

Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins

Miss Deb will join us on Tuesday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. for a fun-filled, musical morning. Registration is required and limited.

Tutors with Tails

Meet Sprite. Sprite is a

therapy dog who loves children and loves books. Sprite and her owner Janet will visit the Taft the last Tuesday of each month. Register today for the opportunity to read to Sprite. Spots are limited.

This program is designed to help increase reading fluency and build a child's confidence in their reading ability. The dog provides a non-judgmental safe environment for children to practice their reading.

Book Clubs

Registration is required for all book clubs. Books are available for pickup at the Children's Circulation desk upstairs in the library. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions.

6-9 Book Club - We will be reading: *Claude in the City* by Alex T. Smith. The book club discussion will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 5 p.m.

8-12 Book Club - We will be reading: *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor. The book club will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

Graphic Novel Book Club - This month we will be reading: *Lunch Lady & the Cyborg Substitute* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka & *Mr. Pants: It's Go Time* by Scott McCormick. Join us on Tuesday, May 2 at 5 p.m. to discuss this month's book picks.

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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 identify 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:

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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NIPMUC

continued from page 1

stressful for students and parents.”

The 141 students graduating from Nipmuc will likely follow a path similar to the class of 2022: 78% went to a four-year college, 8% to a two-year program, 2.5% enrolled in career education, 0.5% entered the workforce, and 11% took a gap year.

“The number of students taking a gap year is declining,” Towne says. “The higher number was due to uncertainty related to the COVID pandemic, and now, more students are expected to enroll in four-year colleges.”

“One trend is more applications to out-of-state colleges,” school counselor Kendra Swen-

son said. “We encourage students to explore all their options. Students are applying to schools in Florida, California, and Arizona. Another shift is applications to test-optional schools, as more colleges do not require the SAT.”

As for fields of study, popular majors are business and health sciences, computer programming, and criminal justice. This reflects the coursework Nipmuc has added in recent years. An array of computer science classes was introduced in response to growing interest among students. These include Python programming and AP courses, plus there is a “Girls Who Code” club.

While students should choose a college that has the major they want, it’s a good idea if it also has other majors they might like. In addition, Swenson advised

choosing a school that has the support services a student needs.

Towne recommends, “Attend the accepted students’ day, especially if you haven’t been there. Get a feel for the campus, see if you can picture yourself there. Consider what it will take to make visits home.”

Financial considerations are important too, and the counselors can help students review their packages. Students are encouraged to create a pros and cons list to help narrow things down before committing.

“Once decisions are made, students get excited, sorting out details like where to live and what to bring,” said Towne. Swenson advised, “It’s a chance to continue exploring and for fresh starts. It will be what you put into it and what you take advantage of.”

Recent Home Sales

Date	Mendon	Amount
03/27/2023	77 Park Street	\$835,000
03/16/2023	73 Neck Hill Road	\$650,000
03/15/2023	71 Millville Road	\$640,000
03/10/2023	2 Colonial Drive	\$485,000
02/16/2023	11 Hartford Ave East	\$630,000

Date	Upton	Amount
03/30/2023	4 Goss Pond Road	\$799,000
03/30/2023	48 Mechanic Street	\$722,000
03/21/2023	114 Chestnut Street	\$730,000
03/20/2023	47 Grafton Road	\$649,000

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Upton Mendon Free Press



2 Colonial Drive in Mendon recently sold for \$485,000. Photo credit www.zillow.com

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Milford-Franklin Eye Center World-Class Eye Care 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 from prestigious academic institutions. Choose wisely- Your eyes deserve the best.

With offices located in Milford, Franklin and Millis (Mil-

lis 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 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 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 dependence 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 field.

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 accreditation 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 dedi-

cated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. Our shop is run by an optician with 4 decades of experience.

Our eye institute has professional 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.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are different. We are an M.D. physician/ surgeon specialist eyecare institute available for you daily and fully-headquartered locally with our optometrists helping with routine eye care only. We

EYES

continued on page 11



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



John F. Hatch, M.D.



Bryan Hong, M.D.



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Upton Town Library Calendar of Events

2 Main Street, Upton • 508-529-6272 • UptonLibrary.org • HOURS: Tues. - Thurs. 10-8 • Fri. & Sat. 10-4 • Sun. & Mon. CLOSED

By Matthew Bachtold, Library Director and Lee Ann Murphy, Children's Librarian

Upton Library is Moving!

The Library will close from April 17 through April 30 and reopen on May 2 at our new location, Upton Community Center, 9 Milford Street.

April 17 Library closes.

April 18-22 Library closed. Holds pickup available at 2 Main Street.

April 23-20 Library closed. Holds not available.

May 2 Library opens at the Community Center, 9 Milford Street.

Place any item holds now, and pick them up by April 22. Between April 23 and April 30, no library services will be available, and the current location at 2 Main Street will not be staffed.

Please keep all returns until after May 2. Due dates on Upton items will be extended.

While we are closed, visit our neighbor libraries in Mendon, Grafton, Whitinsville and Milford.

Veterans Memorial Playground

The Playground at 9 Milford Street will open on May 2. It may be tempting to visit the playground during the nice days in April, but construction work is still ongoing. Pathways and landscaping are not complete, and heavy equipment is still being used on the site. Please stay off this active construction site until the playground opens on May 2.

Community Center – What to Expect

On May 2, the Upton Library opens in the Community Center at 9 Milford Street. The library collection and public computers will be expanded.

Hours will be 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Our business center will offer convenient printing, scanning and faxing. Comfortable seating areas and laptop-friendly counters with relaxing views

of Center brook. Private study rooms and conference room for public use. Elder and Social Services department located in the same building. Cultural events, workshops and presentations in the Greatroom and Classroom. Renovated playground, patio and lower play area. Children's storytimes start earlier, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and select Tuesdays. Registration for May programs begins April 1. We expect programs to fill quickly, so register early.

More Information on our website uptonlibrary.org.

Events Calendar and registrations. Moving schedule and progress updates. Room reservations. Special events and announcements.

Special Events

Book Brigade and Sneak Peek, April 29, 9 a.m. Be part of the library move – help take the last few items in our collection from the old building to the new community center, then stay for "Celebrating Upton: Sharing Our Stories at 10 a.m." Register on the event calendar.

Spring Reading Challenge, now through May 27. Read five titles and complete your challenge sheet to receive a bird-feeder kit. For ages 0-18.

Nappy's Puppets! Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Nipmuc HS Auditorium. Enjoy 'Father Goose Tales' in silhouette puppetry by Jim Napolitano. For all ages.

Baby Sign Language. Wednesdays May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center. A series of four classes with instructor Sheryl White. Strengthen the connection between infant and caregiver through early communication. For babies ages 0-2. This event is generously funded by the Upton Cultural Council. Registration required.

Upcoming in May:

See online Events Calendar for details.

Pastel Painting May 17
Backyard Birdwatching May 18
Raised Bed Gardening May 20
Power of the Protest Song May 31

Community Events

Celebrating Upton: Sharing Our Stories, part 1 is April 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Community Center. Author and songwriter Davis Bates shares history and stories about Upton. Presented by Friends of the Upton Library. Register through Events Calendar. Part 2 is May 13.

Used Booksale Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Community Center.

Friends of the Upton Library spring booksale. Used books, DVDs, audios, children's books and more. Don't miss the Totebag deal.

Library Events – Starting May 2 in the Community Center

Registration for May events opens April 1.

Music & Movement – Select Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins will take place April 18 at 10:30 a.m. in Upton Town Hall, and May 9 and 23 from 9:30 - 10 a.m. in the Community Center. Join us for stories, songs, and fun. Best for ages 1-5. Partial funding for this program is through a grant from Beginning Bridges CFCE in Uxbridge. Beginning in May, our music program will start at 9:30 a.m. and require pre-registration.

Baby Storytime – Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

No storytimes in the last two weeks of April. Baby Storytime is for ages birth to 3 and is every Friday in May. This is a 20-minute lapsit program featuring stories, songs, and nursery rhymes. For ages 0-3. Pre-registration

required.

Preschool Storytime – Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

No storytimes in the last two weeks of April. Preschool Storytime is every Thursday. This is a 30-minute program, featuring longer stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. For ages 3-5. Pre-registration required.

Teen Group – Tuesdays 3 p.m.

This group meets weekly every Tuesday from 3 - 4 p.m. and focuses on a new theme each month, sharing books, crafts, games, and more. For May, our theme will be Star Wars. This group is for tweens and teens ages 10-16. This is always a drop-in program. No Teen Group in the last two weeks of April.

Kids' Book Club – May 3, 4 p.m.

Our book club members explore popular juvenile and preteen titles on the first Wednesday of each month. Join us in the Community Center Classroom on May 3, 4 - 4:45 p.m., to discuss our member's choice picks. This group is for ages 8-12 and reads mostly middle grade titles. We welcome new members all year round. Pre-registration required.

Upton Reads Book Group

An eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction with meetings on the second Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening of each month. Starting in May, this group will meet in the Community Center classroom, with a Zoom remote option.

Tuesday, May 9 at 12:45 p.m., and Thursday, May 11 at 6:45 p.m.: *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*, by Gabriella Zevin

For more information or assistance with any library services, call 508-529-6272 or email mbachtol@cwmar.org

MENDON-UPTON COMMUNITY CLEANUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH – SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH

HELP US KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN AND GREEN!

The 2023 community cleanup will take place from Saturday, April 15th to Sunday, April 30th. Volunteers sign up for a street, pick up their bags, and then help clean up their town! Don't forget to post a photo of your cleanup to social media using the following hashtag #MendonUptonCleanup2023

Thank you for helping to keep Mendon & Upton clean and green!

To learn more and sign up visit www.mendonma.gov/clean-up

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as your trusted advisor through the unique financial and lifestyle transitions involved in relocating or selling your family home.

Dina is also a member of the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®, and she is a Certified Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA) this is a certification in pricing properties, creating Custom Market Analysis, working with appraisers, and guiding clients through the anxieties and misperceptions they often have about home values.

Her ultimate goal for each of her clients is to be right by their side in their real estate journey, empowering them with knowledge and care that their

best interest is always at the forefront. Born and raised in Milford, MA, Dina has extensive knowledge of these areas and their surrounding towns. Dina holds over a decade of customer service experience and understands the importance of forming deep connections while listening to the wants and needs of her clients. In her spare time she enjoys traveling to Cape Cod and South Carolina with her husband, stepdaughters and their two miniature dachshunds.

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continued from page 9

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Fun Historical Fact



Portrait of Polly Dean Bradish, renowned Upton abolitionist, early 19th century, by Porter and Doyle, in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art (public domain).

In our March 2023 issue, the Free Press ran a story about Polly Dean Bradish (1797-1876), who was a passionate anti-slavery advocate. We reported that she and her husband built their first home at 15 Main Street and it is no longer there. Thanks to alert reader David Loeper, we now know that house was moved, around 1900, to 18 Nelson Street where it still stands today.

April Updates from Mendon Town Clerk's Office

Mendon's Annual Town Meeting will be held Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Miscoe Hill School. The last day to register to vote for the ATM is Tuesday, April 25 at 5 p.m. You can register to vote or check your voter registration status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/Welcome.aspx>. Warrants for ATM will be mailed to every household prior to the meeting. Once signed, the warrant will also be available on the town web site at <https://www.mendonma.gov/town-meeting>. We encourage all voters to come to town meeting and participate in the budgeting and decision-making process.

The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the Miscoe Hill School. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Vote by mail is

available for this election and applications can be submitted any time before the deadline of Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5 p.m. Applications can be found online at <https://www.mendonma.gov/elections/links/vote-by-mail-application> or in the Town Clerk's office. Completed applications can be mailed, emailed, or dropped off in the Clerk's office or the Clerk's drop box located near the lower town hall door. The last day to register to vote for the ATE is Friday, May 5 at 5 p.m.

The Clerk's office continues to accept 2023 Annual Census Forms. A second mailing was sent in March for those who have not yet responded. Please return your forms as soon as possible. Failure to respond will result in voter's names being placed on the inactive list. While this does

not prohibit you from voting, you will be required to show proof of identification at the polls. For your convenience, census forms can be mailed, emailed, or dropped off. A reminder that a completed 2023 census form is required in order to qualify for the Senior Trash Discount.

The 2023 dog licensing period runs from January 1 – March 31. All dogs ages 6 months and older must be vaccinated against rabies and be licensed yearly by March 31. Late fees of \$15 per dog will be assessed beginning on April 1. Reminder notices were mailed in March and non-responders will be referred to the Animal Control Officer. Dog licensing fees can be paid by in-person, by mail, or online at <https://www.mendonma.gov/home/pages/online-payment-center>.

Upton Men's Club Scholarships available

The Upton Men's Club is pleased to announce their Scholarship Award Program for 2023. A total of \$6,000 will be given to graduating High School level seniors.

Award Criteria:

- Must be an Upton resident.
- Graduating senior, regardless

of high school attending, is eligible.

- Must be pursuing higher education at an accredited school.
- Applicants will be evaluated primarily on their contributions to our community.

Applications for the 2023 scholarships are available from

Nipmuc Regional High School and Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School guidance departments, and on the Upton Men's Club website at: www.uptonmensclub.org.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 28, 2023.

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Upton Candidates Night

On Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. the Upton Bloomer Girls are sponsoring an opportunity to meet the candidates running for offices in the Annual Town Election (Tuesday, May 9, 2023). All candidates are invited to give a brief statement and respond to questions from the audience.

This event will take place at the Upton Fire/EMS Station, located at 20 Church Street.

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Ask the Assessors

What is Motor Vehicle Excise Tax?

Whether your car's a clunker or an optimally engineered driving machine, it's subject to the annual Motor Vehicle Excise Tax collected by the Town where the vehicle is garaged. Trailers and some other types of vehicles are also subject to the tax. Like a property tax, which pays for services in the city or town in which the property is located, revenue from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax is used by the Town to provide public services.

How Is the Rate Calculated and When Is It Due?

Since 1981, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) calculates the value of vehicles for the excise tax at a rate of \$25 per \$1,000 based on the value of the vehicle according to the following depreciation schedule:

In the year preceding the year of manufacture....	50%
In the year of manufacture	90%
In the second year.....	60%
In the third year.....	40%
In the fourth year.....	25%
In the fifth and succeeding years.....	10%

Note: The RMV values the vehicle according to the MSRP (Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price) and does not utilize the purchase price.

Payments are due within 30 days from the day the excise tax bill was issued (not mailed).

Are There Exemptions to the Excise Tax?

Exemptions may be made if the motor vehicle belongs to:

- The Commonwealth of any of its political subdivisions
- An entity who leases motor vehicle as a business if the business leases the motor vehicle for a full calendar year to a charitable organization, other than a degree-granting/diploma-awarding institution.
- Former prisoners of war or their surviving

spouses.

- Active military.
- Charitable or religious organizations whose personal property is exempt.
- Farmers, car dealers, or manufacturers who own or control vehicles with dealer plates or other special plates.
- Veterans with a wartime service-related disability as determined by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
- Non-veterans who have lost the permanent use of both legs, both arms, or their sight in both eyes.

Are Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Abatements Available?

Abatements are available under certain circumstances, including the following:

- The vehicle was sold, AND its registration was cancelled or transferred to another vehicle.
- The owner moved to another state and has proof of the vehicle's registration in that state.
- The vehicle was overvalued. (This would be disputed with the RMV)
- The vehicle was registered twice in Massachusetts in the same year.
- The vehicle has been stolen, and the incident has been reported to the police within 48 hours of the discovery of the theft.

Applications for abatements must be received within three years after the date the excise was due or one year after the excise was paid, whichever is later. If your application is denied, you may appeal to the Office for Administration and Finance's Appellate Tax Board.

Please contact Jean in the Assessor's Office as soon as you feel you are entitled to an abatement and/or if you have any inquiries via email at assessor@mendonma.gov or call 508-473-2738.

Upton Memorial Scholarship applications due by May 1

The First Unitarian Society of Upton Memorial Scholarship is available for Upton students who will be furthering their education. For information contact the Grafton Upton Universalist Society office at admin@uusgu.org or at 508-839-2927. Applications are due by May 1.

Letter to the Editor of Upton & Mendon Free Press

From Linda P. Gay, Resident '88

Upton is a sweet little corner of the world. Sweeter still when what I think is best for the town becomes universal thinking. It is when my life intersects with other residents, that I learn invaluable lessons though, because there are so many points of view in this one zip code. With the exception of participating at a BOS or Committee meeting, or Public Hearing; there are two Town Meetings a year to make our opinions count. The biggest decisions of town governance are determined at those meetings. I realized last year how important it is to first, just go to the meeting. Participation matters, your opinion matters, and although it may be too long a night, and you may wish you were anywhere but the Nipmuc Auditorium, I think when the night is over you may feel like I have come to... I'm glad I took the time, to go, to raise my card and participate in the outcome of the night. I have submitted my first Citizen's Petition regarding the future of the Knowlton-Risteen building, it will be voted on at Town Meeting May 4. Meanwhile follow Growing Pains Upton on Facebook or send me an e-mail at growingpainsupton@gmail.com if you want to learn more. Thanks very much.

Upton Men's Club to host Derby Party

On May 6, the Upton Men's Club will host a Kentucky Derby Party at Shining Rock Country Club. Gates open at 4 p.m.

Festivities will include passed hors d'oeuvres, cash

bar, music, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 in advance and proceeds from this fundraiser go back into the Upton community. For more information and for tickets, visit www.uptonmensclub.org

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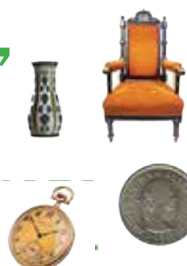
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Pet Spotlight



Jasada and Gumbo available at The Milford Humane Society.
Courtesy photo.

This month the Milford Humane Society is featuring Jasada and Gumbo, who are two young male cats that were surrendered separately but decided to move in together; and they have been roommates ever since.

Jasada is an active Tabby Tux who enjoys interacting with other cats. Gumbo is a black medium haired cat with stunning green eyes who prefers to hang back and nap while his friend wanders.

For more information on Jasada and Gumbo, or the other cats at The Milford Humane Society, please visit <https://www.milfordhumane.org/>

AKC says there's a new top dog, says French Bulldog most popular in 2022

The American Kennel Club has released its latest list of the Most Popular Dog Breeds in the United States and, for the first time since 1991, the Labrador Retriever is not number one. The top spot now belongs to the French Bulldog.

The 2022 top 10 list includes:

1. French Bulldog
2. Labrador Retriever
3. Golden Retriever
4. German Shepherd dog
5. Poodle
6. Bulldogs
7. Rottweilers
8. Beagles
9. Dachshunds
10. German Shorthaired Pointers

For the full list, visit <https://bit.ly/3Z46SxQ>



The Bichon Frise (Lulu, pictured here) was number 47 on the list of 199 dog breeds. Photo Kathryn Enos

What do you think about this list? Is your pup here? Should they be? Share your thoughts and photos on our Facebook page @FreePressPapers.

Blackstone Valley Tech Annual Golf Tourney on June 12

Register now and support a special cause

BVT's 24th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on June 12 at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton and will benefit the Valley Tech Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

Your registration (individual golfer \$150/golf foursome \$125 per person) includes 18 holes on the championship course, a golf cart, and a buffet dinner. More information available at <https://bit.ly/BVTGolfTourney>.

For all tournament details, to

view sponsorship opportunities, donate a raffle item, or access the online golfer registration and payment portal, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament.

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SCHOOLS

BVT Superintendent's Scholars named: Steele of Upton and Guyton of Uxbridge earn Awards

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick is proud to announce that Katelyn Steele of Upton and Maxwell Guyton of Uxbridge are the recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They are both in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT. The annual commendation, also known as the Superintendent's Scholar Award, is presented to the two seniors who exemplify the school's commitment to cutting-edge career technical training and rigorous academics.

Presently, Katelyn Steele is the Class of 2023 Valedictorian and the Vice President of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. Her dedication to academic and vocational studies was on display when she earned a gold medal in 2022 at the SkillsUSA State (Massachusetts) Leadership & Skills Conference in Related Technical Math. In addition, she is a Worcester Polytechnic Institute STEM Leadership Book Award Recipient. Recently recognized

by MAVA with an Outstanding Vocational Student Award, Steele is a scholastically talented student who, in addition to her academic success, also excels as a student-athlete Varsity Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field Captain. Passionate about community service, she accrued over 140 hours throughout high school.

Steele is analyzing multiple placement opportunities that will strengthen her workforce entry options. She would like to further her education and training by studying aerospace engineering at a four-year college.

Currently, Maxwell Guyton is the Class of 2023 Salutatorian and a National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society member. In 2022 he was a National Technical Honor Society Delegate, promoting the pillars of NHS/NTHS to general members and participating in nearly 40 hours of Engineering-related and general community service. He has made the Commendation List every term of his high school career. Guyton, a member of the Student Council, served as a Senior Representative helping the Council to be

named a Gold National Council of Excellence for the 2021 calendar year. As a sophomore, he was selected to attend the Student Ambassador of MA HOBY leadership conference and learned the importance of service and leadership. He was also a Project 351 Student Ambassador in 2019.

Guyton is crafting a unique career path furthering his vocational training in the Engineering field at Northeastern University, enrolling in the PlusOne program to earn a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years while still being able to participate in their co-op program.

"As educators, we are proud to see Katelyn and Maxwell exhibit extraordinary commitment to their vocational technical training and rigorous academics. It is an honor to have them represent our school," said Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele. "They both exemplify what is possible in career-technical education, and it will be equally exciting to see how they apply what they've learned at BVT in their future pursuits."



Katelyn Steele of Upton and Maxwell Guyton of Uxbridge have been named BVT's recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They will graduate in May from BVT's Engineering & Robotics program. Courtesy photos

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SCHOOLS

Mendon-Upton School Building Highlights

Compiled by Scott Calzolaio

Nipmuc High School

Nipmuc congratulates Luke Venable for being named Worcester County Superintendent Association student scholar for the Class of 2023. Luke was honored last week during a luncheon at Holy Cross for his academic excellence.

Freshmen Jessica Casey and Emma Watts participated in the 2023 Nike Nationals Indoor Invitational at the Armory in New York City this past weekend. Jessica and Emma qualified for this race through their excellent indoor track seasons this past winter. Emma finished with a time of 1:04.6 while Jessica ran a 1:05.2 placing 34th and 35th respectively - a landmark accomplishment for both runners.

Nipmuc administration congratulates all of the DECA students who competed in the state competition in Boston in March. Nipmuc students enjoyed a lot of success where all of their hard work paid off in the results. Sofia Geremia, Nipmuc Junior, was one of six students out of eighteen across the state elected to Massachusetts DECA's State Action Team 65. There were many students who received recognition, medals and over 30 students qualified to compete in Orlando in April. Special thanks



Freshmen Jessica Casey (left) and Emma Watts recently participated in the 2023 Nike Nationals Indoor Invitational at the Armory in New York City. Courtesy photo

to Mr. Caprarella and Mr. Kelly who worked throughout the year with the DECA students, and to the chaperones who attended the event and made it possible for the students.

Save the dates:
May 16 - Grade 10 Mathematics

May 17 - Grade 10 Mathematics
June 6 - Grade 9 Biology
June 7 - Grade 9 Biology

Miscoe Middle School

On May 13, the Best Buddies group will be walking at Polar Park in Worcester to raise money for Best Buddies International and even more important awareness of inclusion. They would love to have everyone be a part of our walk. If interested in joining, visit bit.ly/Miscoe-BBwalk.

Save the dates:
April 6 - ELA MCAS
April 11 - ELA MCAS
April 11 - Miscoe Expo Elective Showcase
May 9 - Math MCAS
May 11 - Math MCAS
May 15 - Science MCAS (Grades 5 and 8 Only)
May 18 - Science MCAS (Grades 5 and 8 Only)

Memorial Elementary and Henry P. Clough Elementary

MCAS Testing dates:
April 4 - English Language Arts Testing Grades 3 and 4
April 5 - English Language Arts Testing Grades 3 and 4
May 16 - Math Testing Grades 3 and 4
May 17 - Math Testing Grades 3 and 4

MURSD 2023-2024 School Calendar approved

K-12 to start on August 30



Source www.mursd.org

The 2023-2024 school calendar for the Mendon-Upton Regional School District has been approved by the MURSD School Committee and can be found at bit.ly/

MURSDcalendar2023-24. It can also be accessed by going to mursd.org and following these steps:

- Menu/Our District/District Calendar 2023-2024
- Menu/Documents/District Calendar/MURSD District Calendar 2023-2024

Note: The calendar icon button on the homepage will take you to the current school calendar.

The first day of school for grades K-12 is scheduled for August 30, 2023 and pre-K will start on September 5.

MURSD last day of school now June 16

Due to the February 28 snow day, the last day of school for students in the Mendon-Upton Regional School District is now Friday,

June 16, and will be an early release day.

The revised calendar can be found at <https://bit.ly/3yOLfqH>

Flanagan named to Dean's List

Cate Flanagan, Nipmuc Class of 2022, has been named to the fall semester Dean's List at Siena College.

Cate is majoring in Economics and playing D1 soccer. She is in the Class of 2026.



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SCHOOLS

Local BVT students earn SkillsUSA medals at District V Competition

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School students had an opportunity to test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools during the first of three SkillsUSA competitions. On March 20, 2023 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their knowledge in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety, student-competitors from BVT proudly claimed 37 gold, 37 silver, 30 bronze medals and swept 11



categories.

83 students will advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented vocational-technical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition held at BVT in late April. An additional 35 students will go directly to the state competition, and 25 student delegates will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

BVT students who earned medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference are listed by hometown:

MENDON

Silver: Naomi Tsuda, Baking & Pastry Arts; and Arthur Tusoni, Television (Video) Production.

Bronze: Josh Blalock, Diesel Equipment Technology; Noah LeFave, Electronics Technology; Lilly Rezek, Health Knowledge Bowl; Leo Camilli, Major Appliance Technology; and Charles Lozeau, Mobile Robotics Technology.

MILFORD

Gold: Igor Freeman, Additive Manufacturing; Lizmary Vidal-Sanchez, Dental Assisting; Jason Cardente, Electronics Technology; Heather Jarek, Television (Video) Production; and Lucas Brault, Urban Search & Rescue.

Silver: Lacey Coffman, Ad-



vertising Design; William Naff, Automotive Service Technology; and Hannah Murphy, Photography.

Bronze: Mayra Desousa, First Aid/CPR; Jack Eastwood, HVAC/R; and Iwan Steinmann, Television (Video) Production.

UPTON

Gold: Jacob Giancola, Ro-

botics & Automation Tech; and Laith Shloul, Telecommunications Cabling.

Silver: Skyla Jack, Carpentry; Logan Rae, First Aid/CPR; and Cassidy Lyon, Health Knowledge Bowl.

Bronze: Justin Fransen, Mechatronics; and Samantha Carroll, Technical Compute Applications.

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SPORTS

BVT baseball's goal: Win the final game

Beavers hoping to be a Top Team in D4

By Chris Villani
Sports Writer

Blackstone Valley Tech baseball coach John Burke does not mince words when it comes to assessing the prospects of his 2023 Beavers.

"This should be a big year for us," he said.

The optimism appears to be well-founded. Valley Tech has 12 players returning from a squad that advanced to the final 16 in the state tournament a season ago. Among the group coming back are four Colonial

Athletic League all-stars, led by senior captain Tade Riordan.

"He is the number one guy on the mound," Burke said of Riordan, who is heading to NJIT on a baseball scholarship next year. "He is going to be a big bat in the lineup and he is going to get the ball in our biggest games."

Junior captain Corey Magill is likely to slot in as the number two pitcher and will also start at third base. Senior captain Nick Laflamme will play in the middle infield and figures to be a middle of the order bat, just as he was last year.

"He is a good athlete and a baseball guy," Burke said, adding that Laflamme is also looking to play baseball in college.

Junior Jack Krauss, another captain, is yet another player who can be a dynamic presence in the Beavers' lineup and can play a number of positions.

Burke said the early part of the season will be spent figuring out who should be where in the field. He has a good problem

on his hands in that several of his players could end up as the starting shortstop.

"We have a really deep, athletic group," Burke said. "We have to put the pieces of the puzzle together and find the right roles for guys. But we are going to hit, we are going to make a ton of plays in the field, it's going to be about how effective we are at throwing strikes, getting ahead in the count, and having clean innings."

If the BVT pitching staff lives up to expectations, Burke said his team could contend for the title in Division 4.

"Our goal is to win the last game of the year, and that means making it through all the way to the state finals," he said.

"We have a tough schedule and some challenging teams to play, but we have the expectation to go out and compete and win every game."

Burke said he knows that many teams have title aspirations, but added that the Beavers have the ability to follow



BVT Baseball's junior captain Corey Magill. Courtesy photo



BVT Baseball's senior captain Nick Laflamme. Courtesy photo

through.

"We should be running a lot of games this year," he said.

"We have a really good chance to be one of the top teams in the state."



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SPORTS

Deep roster returns for Nipmuc softball

Warriors have Central Mass. title in sight



Kate Julian delivers a pitch during a game last season. Courtesy photo

choose from, giving DeBaggis the ability to ride a hot hand or give everyone a chance in the circle. Hers is an experienced group.

“Most of the team has been playing together since they were young,” she said.

Nipmuc will be led by seniors Ella Fernald, Kara Johnson, Allyson Lukasek, and Liana Patrick, an experienced group that is expected to lead the way on and off the diamond.

The Warriors also return juniors Janelle Scirocco, Kate Julian, and Ella Calvey, all of whom saw time pitching a season ago.

“Last year, everyone got a start and we wanted to see how it went and what kind of momentum we could build from there,” DeBaggis said.

Sophomore Keegan Kelley is back and had some big at bats during her freshman year. Sera DeBaggis, a junior, is a returning catcher who can also play the infield and Bridget Klupa and Isabelle Nicholson, both sophomores, will split time between the infield and the outfield.

Nipmuc also has a strong freshman class and DeBaggis said several players may go back and forth between the varsity

and JV teams once the season begins.

DeBaggis said the biggest team goal for Nipmuc this year: do not beat ourselves.

“If we lose a game and it’s a good game and we are in it, we are good with that,” the coach said. “We don’t want to make the mental mistakes and not execute the way we are capable.”

Nipmuc will be taking a traditional “one game at a time” approach.

“I know we would love to be in the postseason again and make a deep run,” DeBaggis said. “But we gotta play the games first.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Writer

Nipmuc’s softball team is back on the field this spring and looking to build on a strong 2022 campaign that saw the Warriors advance to the finals of the Central Mass. tournament and get knocked out of the state tournament by the eventual

champions.

“It was a good season,” said head coach Stephanie DeBaggis. “I don’t think people expected a lot and we were just hoping to be able to do some good things.”

Nipmuc returns four seniors this year, two in the infield and two more outfielders. The Warriors also have three pitchers to

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AS LOW AS **\$127/WK**
#H03714 • 1500 CUSTOM, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$54,180~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$38,977**

2020 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT



AS LOW AS **\$74/WK**
#44682 • AWD, PARKING SENSORS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$31,710~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977**

2020 GMC ACADIA SLE



AS LOW AS **\$98/WK**
#44674 • AWD, APPLE CARPLAY, V6
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$37,865~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$30,677**

2021 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5



AS LOW AS **\$156/WK**
#P15815LGG • 4X4, CREWMAX, V8
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$54,970~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$46,977**

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4



AS LOW AS **\$79/WK**
#D13057 • LATITUDE PLUS, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$38,400~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,477**

2020 HYUNDAI TUCSON SUV



AS LOW AS **\$81/WK**
#H23191A • AWD, SPORT TRIM, CPO
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$36,750~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977**

2019 FORD FUSION SE



AS LOW AS **\$60/WK**
#P15751 • 23/34 CITY/HIGHWAY MPG
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$28,690~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,977**

2020 CHEVY TRAVERSE



AS LOW AS **\$101/WK**
#44762R • AWD, LS TRIM, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$39,995~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,477**

2022 HYUNDAI KONA SUV



AS LOW AS **\$78/WK**
#H03615 • SEL TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$29,650~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977**

2021 FORD EDGE SEL AWD



AS LOW AS **\$106/WK**
#P15447RGG • 3K MILES, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$40,395~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977**

2021 MERCEDES GLC 300



AS LOW AS **\$159/WK**
#H03231 • 19" ALLOYS, 4MATIC AWD
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$64,670~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$47,977**

2018 TESLA MODEL 3 AWD



AS LOW AS **\$113/WK**
#H03762PP • SUNROOF, NAV, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$58,990~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$34,977**

2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4



AS LOW AS **\$170/WK**
#P15540GG • BIG BEND TRIM, NAV
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$62,995~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$50,977**

2019 SUBARU FORESTER



AS LOW AS **\$90/WK**
#H03769 • AWD, ALLOYS, SUNROOF
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$32,695~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$28,377**

2020 HONDA ACCORD SPORT



AS LOW AS **\$81/WK**
#H03725A • LEATHER, TURBO, ALLOYS
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$34,660~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977**

2022 JEEP GLADIATOR



AS LOW AS **\$134/WK**
#D13075 • SPORT TRIM, ALLOYS, V6
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$49,450~~ | **WHOLESALE PRICE: \$40,977**

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General Manager

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