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Vol. 5 No. 2

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April 2019

The Voice of Your Community

Join the "Conversation on Current Topics" at the Hopedale Senior Center

By LINDA HIXON

"No topic is off-limits," said Hopedale Council on Aging Director Carole Mullen about the ongoing "Conversation on Current Topics" group. This informal chat session currently meets twice a month at the Hopedale Senior Center.

The March meeting was no exception to that open conversation. The group talked about a myriad of topics, many gleaned from the latest headlines. On a recent Friday morning, the group discussed health issues and personal safety, but also tackled racial issues and the "Me, too" movement.

To attendee Arlene Williams, it's the respectful nature of the discussion that makes

her feel the group is a comfortable space. "We're here for understanding," Ms. Williams said, noting that since her retirement she can find conversation lacking in her life. "I'm grateful for the group," she noted. "Since I retired, I'm alone quite a lot." The group, she said, is a place to express and share but in a polite setting.

Pauline Wright, another attendee, agreed. A former dancer, Ms. Wright said she finds some of the toxic nature of online discourse unsettling. The Conversations on Current Topics group allows for face-to-face discussion on any topic, including Hopedale issues, without fear of rancor. "There will often be different political views," she said, adding that

even in the current political climate the group is respectful of each other's views.

"It can sometimes get quite emotional, but is always very respectful," Hopedale Community House Program Director Tara Chambers said. Carole Mullen called the meetings a place to talk about common events or even discuss ideological ideas. "It's a smorgasbord of topics," she said.

The next Conversation on Current Topics will be held on Friday, April 5 and again on Friday, April 19. Both meetings start at 10:15 a.m. at the Hopedale Senior Center, located inside the Hopedale Community House, 43 Hope Street. For more information, call the Hopedale Council on Aging at 508 634-2208.

Paws Bed and Biscuit: A Loving Family to Care for your Fur Baby when you Can't

By LINDA HIXON

The testimonials on a local business website speak highly of a place that cares for the most precious loved ones. "He cried as we drove away and passed by one of his new playmates," one customer stated. "Within an hour of getting home he was out like a light.

Best night sleep!" But this testimonial isn't about a child. The loved one is a dog, and the daycare this client is praising is P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit.

Started in 2008 by Daniel and Maegan Antonellis, P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit is conveniently located at 97 Millville Road in Mendon, about a mile off Route



16. The setting is quiet and rural, and Daniel and Maegan live on site, just steps away from their doggie hotel and play land.

P.A.W.S. is not your average dog care center. Daniel has 26 years of experience in the canine

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behavior and veterinary fields. He has worked as a Certified Veterinary Technician and a supervisor in a high volume veterinary surgery department, including years in emergency medicine and general practice. Daniel is also a Canine Behavior Consultant and a graduate of Animal Behavior College.

Maegan, who calls herself the “Mom of PAWS,” grew up with a menagerie – dogs, birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, even the occasional frog. At the University of New Hampshire, she rode horses and was a member of an agricultural sorority, an experience that allowed her to learn about and care for many animals. She makes sure each “furry guest” is comfortable and happy, along with managing the social media, including an active Facebook account filled with fun photos and loads of praise.

Together, the couple bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to caring for their clients, who couldn’t be in better hands.

Business spotlight

“We give our clients a sense of safety, trust and comfort knowing that we have decades of experience in both veterinary medical care and personal care. It adds that extra sense of security and family touch that you don’t find elsewhere,” Maegan said. She described the business as “the kind of place that we would want for our own furry kids.”

Playtime is the most important time at P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit – in fact, it lasts most of the day. Like children, dogs need to play and socialize in order to be happy and well-adjusted.

“Socialization and playtime relieves stress and can help relieve separation anxiety, plus it helps maintain physical well-being, healthy joints, and burns calories,” Daniel noted. “We have large, beautiful, safe and secure play spaces for furry friends of all shapes and sizes. Our supervised play groups are separated by size, safety and activity level.



Our furry friends look forward to running through our doors and greeting their pals for relaxation and tail wagging fun! Most importantly, our clients have the peace of mind that their dog is safe, happy and having fun while they are at work.”

P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit offers a range of services, not just exceptional doggie daycare.

The “Doggie Chalet” allows for boarding in modern comfort, and the list of amenities sounds like a luxury resort. Each guest has their own indoor climate-controlled suite with a comfortable bed, fresh bedding, filtered water, housekeeping services, and a large outdoor patio. Family vacations can be guilt-free when the furry family member is being

pampered at P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit.

P.A.W.S. also offers pet spa services, behavior consultations, and training. “We are all about providing a fun experience for your furry kid,” Maegan said.

Learn more about P.A.W.S. Bed and Biscuit online at pawsbedandbiscuit.com or on the PAWS Bed & Biscuit Facebook page.

Little Red Shop Museum Open House dates set for April

View Hopedale history at the Little Red Shop Museum’s upcoming open house!

The Little Red Shop was Hopedale’s first machine shop built by the Adin Ballou’s Practical Christian followers shortly after they founded the Hopedale Community. The members broke ground on the building in June, 1842, and Ebenezer Draper started his textile ma-

chinery business there, working with important town residents like Joseph Bancroft and Warren Dutcher.

Today, the Little Red Shop Museum houses artifacts important to Hopedale’s history, from those Utopian beginnings to the prosperous decades as the home to the Draper Corporation. In fact, Draper executives used the LRS to show clients a history of

the company and the latest loom technology back in its heyday!

The Little Red Shop Museum plans two open houses this month, on two Sundays: April 7 and 28. On both days the museum will be open from 1 – 4 p.m. You can also visit the museum’s gift shop for “many things Hopedale.” Like the Little Red Shop at [Facebook.com/LittleRedShopMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/LittleRedShopMuseum).



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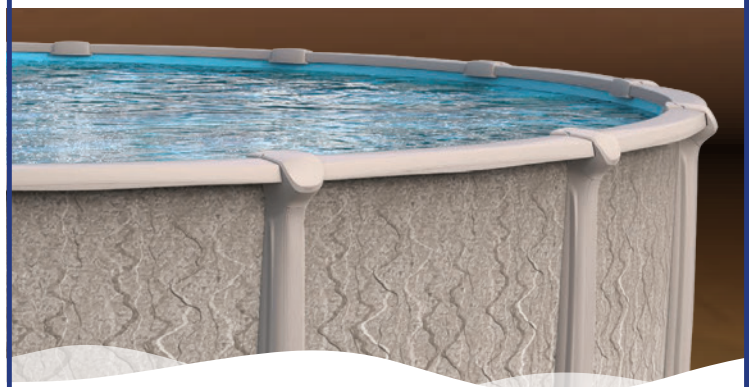


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