

## Dudley override vote to decide town services

BY PATTY ROY

A special town election on Aug. 17 will decide the scope of town services that will be cut or saved for the current fiscal year that started on July 1. The vote will take place from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street.

The Proposition 2 1/2 override vote would result in a permanent addition to the tax base, raising the tax rate from the current \$10.16 to \$11.83 per thousand dollars of valuation if all five requests pass.

Voters will face an array of choices for funding various town departments including \$901,683 for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District assessment.

A “yes” vote would restore the recent reductions in staff and programs and maintain level services in the schools. The vote would also result in returning \$901,683 back to the municipal side of the town budget to fund town departments at a ten percent reduction from last year’s level, as approved by the May 22 town meeting.

Passing this part of the override request would add 62 cents to the current tax rate.

Dudley and Charlton passed an override in 2018 to fund the school district. At the time, it was considered adequate to cover three years of spending. That was an accurate estimate and in the meantime, federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds released due to the Covid pandemic filled in the spending gaps. ARPA funding is no longer available.

The override vote also seeks money for public safety services is being sought at \$556,111. The Fire Department would receive \$366,764 and the Police Department \$189,346, leaving both departments below last year’s funding level, but would prevent the lay-offs of two patrol officers, two career firefighter paramedics and one administrative assistant.



It would also restore funding for per diem staff, critical training and emergency care supplies.

Passage of this article would add 38 cents to the tax rate.

The Highway Department is also seeking funding at \$534,304 to restore its budget at 65 percent of last year’s spending. A “yes” vote would prevent the lay-off of two highway department, although three open positions would remain unfilled.

Passing this article would also restore half a million dollars to the town’s stabilization account which is money the town sets aside for unforeseen needs or capital projects.

Passing the Highway Department override would add 37 cents to the current tax rate.

The override also seeks the voters’ decision on funding \$297,528 for the Pearle L. Crawford Memo-

### OVERRIDE

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Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards will lead a walking tour and give a concert on the Quinebaug River Rail Trail next month. submitted photo

## Family fun with hike and concert on Quinebaug River Trail

Webster natives and co-founders of the Massachusetts Walking Tour Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards will host a “Walking Tour” Sept. 17 on the Quinebaug River Rail Trail in Dudley.

The Last Green Valley and Local 4 Life are co-sponsors of

this event, part of “Walktober” - a regional fall collection of walks, paddles, lectures and other events to connect people with the abundant and diverse natural, historical and cultural resources within south-central Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut.

The event will run from 1-4 p.m. with the following schedule: gathering and welcome 1 – 1:15 p.m.; walk 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.; activities and concert 2:15 – 4 p.m.

The nature walk is a two-miles round-trip to “Ken’s Bridge” on easy, mostly flat terrain suitable for strollers. Local 4 Life will then lead a hands-on take-home kids’ activ-

### HIKE

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## HIKE

continued from page 1

ity to craft mason bee hotels (while supplies last). Light refreshments will be offered after the walk with an opportunity to visit with local partners like The Last Green Valley and others. Acclaimed local artists Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards will perform acoustic music accompanied by members of the Walking Tour band. Attendees are welcome to bring a chair or blanket for the concert (can be left in the car or at the gathering space during the walk). Meet at the end of Blue Herron Rd. in Dudley (off New Boston Rd) for all activities. The trail kiosk is located near the end of the cul-de-sac.

Street parking is available on Blue Herron Rd. and in the surrounding neighborhood. Alterna-

tive parking for those who don't mind a longer walk can be found in the small lot off Schofield Ave in Dudley and along the driveway of the Webster Water Treatment Plant in Webster.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) is two things - it's the 35-town National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts, and it's also a member-supported, non-profit stewardship organization working for residents in the National Heritage Corridor. The corridor is a place with a rich history in a surprisingly rural landscape. More than 80 percent of the Corridor is forest and farm; it's also the last swath of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. TLGV advocates to sustain our region's legacy for future generations. The Walktober event is in its thirty-third year

leading people to wide-open spaces to explore with walks, hikes, historic tales, paddles, bike rides and farm visits.

Local 4 Life focuses on education, conservation and community-building. The non-profit was founded by two middle school Science teachers who were inspired to offer hands on learning that supported local farms and broadened their reach beyond the classroom. They recruited a diverse board of directors, advisors and volunteers that consist of farmers, educators, and entrepreneurs. With the help of their expertise, skills and talents, Local 4 Life has hosted events, workshops and activities for all ages that have been centered in four core values- Agricultural & Local Partnerships, Youth Education, Conservation of Resources, and Diversified Community Outreach.

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Since 2010 Mandeville and Richards have organized a grassroots trek annually to raise awareness of recreational greenspace throughout the state and create folk coffee-house-style musical events in each town. The Massachusetts Walking Tour has performed over 131 concerts in 113 towns across the state, partnering with the National Parks Service, Mass Audubon, Trustees, DCR, Freedoms Way and AMC to hike sections of the Appalachian Trail, Mid-State Trail, New England National Scenic Trail, Bay Circuit Trail, Cape Cod Rail Trail, South Coast Bikeway and many of the region's smaller recreational greenspaces. In 2017, Senator Ed Markey officially recognized the Massachusetts Walking Tour in the congressional record for an annual commitment to promoting trails, arts and culture throughout the state.

"Our intention is simply to help people understand the importance of greenspace in our busy lives by inviting them out for a walk, to

see younger and older folks hiking together, sharing thoughts on a nice day out in the woods," states Mandeville. "As for the concerts, we do our best to create a respectful listening environment which highlights local performers, artists and folks with good work to announce - in that way, each concert is unique."

Aside from organizing the Massachusetts Walking Tour, performing and recording their original compositions, Mandeville and Richards serve as music teachers in central MA through Blackstone Valley Music, an independently owned school with a popular Band Camp Program and monthly community coffeehouse.

See [www.markandrienne.com](http://www.markandrienne.com) for more information. Sponsored by Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards [masswalkingtour.org](http://masswalkingtour.org), Local 4 Life [local4life.org](http://local4life.org), The Last Green Valley [thelastgreenvalley.org](http://thelastgreenvalley.org), and the Town of Dudley [dudleyma.gov](http://dudleyma.gov) and The Dudley Cultural Council.

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# Letter to the Editor

## An Open Letter to Dudley Voters from the Dudley Fire Chief and Police Chief

Our positions as Public Safety Department heads are not political in nature. We are committed to serving our community and its residents no matter the demographic, political affiliation, or orientation. Safeguarding lives, businesses and properties demands our full attention, and this is where we would like to stay focused rather than making appeals to fund our services.

The Town has historically, and will no doubt continue to enjoy a low tax rate even if voters approve the five ballot questions in the August 17, 2023, Proposition 2 ½ Override Election. Yet, the level of services provided by our departments will change significantly should the menu of override questions fail.

This is not a scare tactic. Your public safety departments are not immune to inflation and the rising costs of nearly everything.

Lately, some of the comments made in our community and across social media platforms have gone from informational to hateful. We have seen people advocating for state receivership of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, for defunding the police department, and for the elimination of the professional firefighters and paramedics by regressing to an outdated, decades-gone volunteer fire department.

We've seen posts calling to reduce our tax rate, which is the lowest in the county and among the lowest in the state, through an "Underride." As dangerous to our community are the posts and comments from those who would cripple life-saving services to further their political battle against the Commonwealth and our local government.

We write this letter as an appeal to the rational, sober, and thoughtful members of our community who understand what is at stake on August 17th.

As the Chiefs of your public safety departments, we ask for the community's collective help to first, take a deep breath and a break from the rhetoric. Then logically consider our Fiscal Year '24 budget issues. The town's revenue, which is the amount we collect from residents in taxes, is insufficient to meet our legal obligation to pay the school district assessment and to properly fund town services. At the May 22, 2023, town meeting, voters approved a FY24 budget that comprised an overall town wide

reduction of more than ten percent from last year's amounts. In the June 12, 2023, Proposition 2 ½ Override Election, Dudley voters rejected the amounts required to level-service fund police and fire budgets, which solidified the 10% budget reduction to our services. On the following day, the school committee re-voted its assessment to Dudley, which resulted in a \$901,683 deficit in the town budget. To re-balance the budget, further cuts must be made to municipal services, including fire, police, highway, library, Veterans' Services, Council on Aging, Treasurer/Collector, Town Clerk, and Town Accountant.

The school committee is elected to advocate for a school budget that appropriately funds education. We are appointed in part to do the same for public safety.

The ten percent funding cuts to our departments, the failed June 12, 2023, override intended to restore those cuts and the additional reductions needed to fund the school district's demand for \$901,683 will have negative operational impacts in FY24 and beyond. The reduced funding to our departments is a clear and present danger to our community in terms of public safety and to the men and women of the police and fire departments in terms of their ability to work safely.

The politicizing of our funding to serve an ideology undermines our work. Unfunded public safety budgets cause response times to suffer, investigations and proactive policing to diminish, and keeping drugs out of our schools and our kids protected becomes a greater challenge. The approach of the winter months, with insufficient staffing for clearing roads will further hinder our work.

Passing the five override questions on the August 17, 2023, ballot will return all municipal departments to acceptable service levels, while the adjusted tax rate with the reduction from retired debt will be a net increase of only \$1.43 per thousand in property valuation. Dudley would continue to have the lowest tax rate in the area and all services - schools, highway, town hall, police and fire would be adequately funded.

If you choose to vote in favor of Question 5 on the ballot and fund the school district assessment, it will restore departmental budgets back to the ten percent reduction level approved at town meeting

on May 22, as the \$901,683 for the school assessment would come from taxes rather than from more cuts to critical services. Question 5 would add 62 cents to the tax rate.

If, however, you choose to also approve Question 1 on the August 17, 2023 ballot, it would restore public safety to adequate levels for an additional 38 cent increase to the tax rate. To fund the highway department by approving Question 2, it would add 37 cents; Town Hall and Veteran's Services on Question 3, would add 9 cents, and the library funding on Question 4, 21 cents.

Voters will be asked to make important choices on August 17, 2023. We hope that you will support all the ballot questions and will go to the polls knowing your single vote will help decide the level of services that you will receive.

As the chiefs of your public safety, we have no political points to make. Our sole purpose and focused interest are in serving the community with the resources required to keep you safe and there when you need us. A yes vote on Question 1, Question 2, and Ques-

tion 5 restores public safety. A yes vote on Questions 3 and Question 4 restores public services. A yes on all five questions will still maintain the lowest tax rate in the area and will prevent our community from having to deal with a greater financial crisis in FY25.

Keep us all on the job for you, for your families and for your neighbors. Reject the politics and ideologies and please do the right thing for all of us.

Marek Karlowicz, Police Chief  
Dean Kochanowski, Fire Chief

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# A nation of immigrants: Antonia Muscetta, a true-blue American

BY JANET STOICA

*This is the sixth in a series of articles about local immigrants and their lives in the United States, why they came, how they lived, and what their outlook is about this country.*

If you ever want to meet a truly patriotic immigrant who has been a U.S. citizen for quite a few years since emigrating from Italy then you have to meet Mrs. Antonia (Cannistra) Muscetta. Her remarkable level of patriotism is simply amazing.

Originally from Messina, Italy, known as the door of the island of Sicily, the town is of great histori-

cal importance with its huge Santa Maria Cathedral and the gigantic clock on the bell tower. The city was originally founded by the Greeks in the 8th century BC and is also a popular Mediterranean cruise stop. Its harbor is shaped like a sickle and the island is also known for its tropical fruits like mangoes, bananas, papayas, and avocados. "From Messina, you can see Calabria on the mainland about two miles away," said Mrs. Muscetta.

Antonia's parents left Italy with their five daughters when she was 10 years old. She was their fourth child. Her parents wanted a better life for their family. They ini-

tially settled in Montreal, Quebec, Canada where Antonia learned the French language. Montreal favors the French language more than English. When Antonia was 16 years of age, her dad decided that America was the land of better opportunity so they moved to the Bronx borough of New York, the Little Italy section. Her three older sisters were now married and one decided to remain in Montreal with another moving to Florida.

Antonia's dad had been well-trained in Italy. His trade was that of a carpenter and master cabinetmaker designing and making ornate cabinetry. "He made his own cabinet designs carving them intricately by hand," said Antonia with pride. "His work was beautiful." Once in America, however, Mr. Cannistra realized that he needed a job that provided a steady income with good benefits so applied for the position of U.S. Mail carrier and worked his way up to supervisor, by merit, until his retirement. He also took on a second job working for the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority and the subway system.

Antonia began her high school studies but soon realized that her family needed the extra income so she took a job to bring in extra money. She also went to night school to learn English and to study for her U.S. citizenship exam. It was in night school where she met her husband Giorgio Muscetta. "Both my husband and I passed our citizenship exams and became U.S. citizens. Soon after, when I was 18, we were married and had two children," she said. When their daughter, Angela, and her husband moved to the Grafton MA area so did Antonia and her husband. After Antonia's husband passed away and her daughter's family moved to Oxford, Antonia was able to find a home nearby. Recently,

however, she lost her dear daughter Angela to cancer but Antonia continues to play a large role in Angela's family by being there for Angela's two sons who are adults now. Antonia and Giorgio's other daughter, Geraldine, lives in a facility for physically and mentally-



Top, originally from Messina, Italy, Antonia Muscetta is proud to call America home. Scenic America, and picturesque and historic Grafton, are two reasons why Antonia Muscetta loves her adopted country.

challenged individuals. "Our girls always meant so much to us," said Antonia.

"This is such a great country and we were very lucky to come here. This is truly the best country in the world," she proudly said, "and when I hear people talking badly about America, it upsets me very much. It makes me want to tell them to go somewhere else and then see how that other country compares to America. When our National Anthem plays, I always tear up. I'm so proud to be an American. This country is a real land of opportunity. That's why everyone wants to come here! If you are a hard worker, you can be whatever you want to be. This

country is the greatest. It's so important to be free. It's the good, the bad, and the ugly. That's how our history is and you can't change it. I think of how if it weren't for the American soldiers in World War II and their bravery, Italy and all of Europe would be speaking German now. They freed us from the Germans. Even though I was born in Italy, America is my home. When I see the American flag, it's my flag now. It's the best flag in the world."

Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants. Franklin D. Roosevelt

*jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com*

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# Webster's Community Cat Connection has Successful Kitten Shower Event

BY JANET STOICA

**O**n a sunny July afternoon, Webster's feline shelter had a great crowd of caring and prospective kitten and cat owners.

looking at you with their soulful and magical eyes. Black, smoky, blonde, tan, and gray-striped too. They were more timid of all the crowd than anything else. So cool though. Some were able to be



for many of the adoptable kittens and adults and there are many more adorable felines available for those who may want to visit and view their cuddly and newest



with purrs and peaceful calmness. A beautiful and tasty buffet table of delectable food items from canapes to sweets was also available for those who needed a snack. Raffles provided a chance to guess how many cat toys filled a large jar, games of ring toss and chances for

the kids, and a great opportunity to discuss different cat and kitty personalities with the shelter's volunteers. Overall, the Kitten Shower was a great success. Many visitors filled out their adoption papers to await screening. Good homes were found

adoptees. If you feel that you would like a low-maintenance pet who would bring you warmth and special companionship, please visit the Community Cat Connection in Webster at 289 Thompson Road. Phone: (508) 949-0779. Viewing hours: Thursday and Friday from 12 noon – 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com)

Shelter volunteers directed visitors to participate in raffles, games, and viewing areas to check out the most gentle and furry pets you could imagine. What better pet than a soft, soothing, and purring princess or prince? They are easygoing, so very cuddly, and are said to add years to your life when owning one.

There were beautiful tuxedos, tommies, and queens. Such cuties,

scooped out of their cages and into the waiting arms of those wanting to adopt them. All were rewarded

## OVERRIDE

*continued from page 1*

rial Public Library. According to the election ballot, this would give the library 93 percent of last year's budget amount and allow the library to stay open with inter-library services (the ability to borrow books and other resources between libraries) intact.

Approval of the library question would add 21 cents to the tax rate.

The vote also seeks an override of \$133,698 to fund general government services such as administration, the Town Accountant, information technology expenses, Board of Assessors, Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, Planning Board, Board of Health, Building Inspector, Council on Aging and Veterans' Services.

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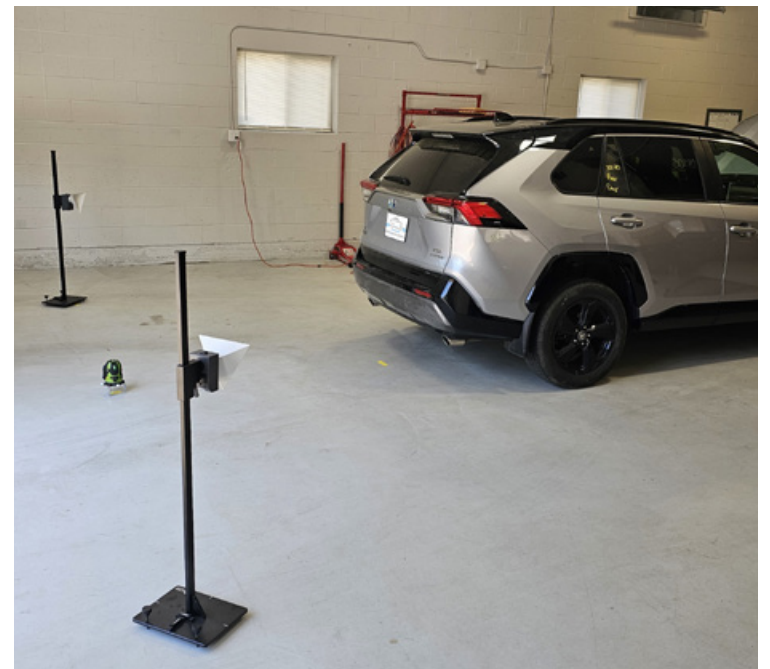
So you've got a new (or new-ish) car with all kinds of sophisticated equipment to keep you and your passengers safe. Equipment like forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning, blind spot warning, parking assist/self-parking, backup cameras or adaptive high beams, to name just a partial list.

What you may not realize is that if your car is in an accident, all these precision sensors, called

edge on this type of recalibration.

Learning ADAS "involved a lot of education up front and a huge investment in equipment," Ambrosino said. With ADAS, "we are making sure all these systems are lined up automatically. A lot of scan tools are involved, to give the customer peace of mind."

"ADAS is not necessarily just for vehicles involved in a collision but also those in need of an alignment," Ambrosino points out.



A variety of scanning tools are being used to ensure vehicle safety with the introduction of the Advanced Driver Assistance System, or ADAS, at Fuller Automotive in Auburn.

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) need to be checked and possibly recalibrated to ensure they are still working as designed – even if the accident is not within the area of the installed equipment.

You should always confirm with your repair shop that all ADAS calibrations are properly completed after repairs to your car, according to Mike Ambrosino ADAS and diagnostic specialist at ADAS Diagnostic Solutions, 5 Southbridge Street, Auburn.

The explanation goes that the sensors are sort of like Christmas tree lights. If one goes, they all go; it doesn't matter if everything looks alright from the outside of the vehicle.

And no one wants to be driving along unaware that the technology they rely upon is not working.

ADAS Diagnostic Solutions works with body shops and car dealers who may not have the tools, the training or the knowl-

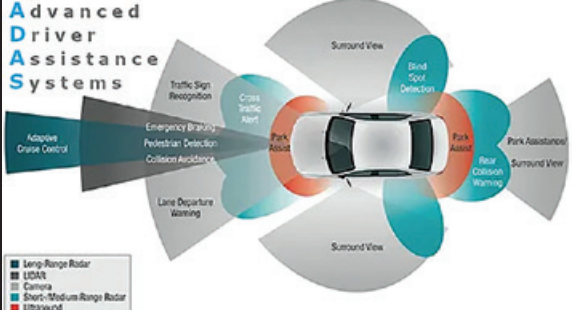
Since 2020, ADAS Diagnostic Solutions has been working with local repair shops to provide the calibration tools and knowledge needed for the relatively new sensors and systems. We have created a process that uses a combination of original equipment manufacturers and aftermarket scan tools and diagnostic equipment, minimizes cycle time, eliminates inconsistent scheduling and communication, and most of all maximizes productivity in getting cars back to pre-accident condition.

While operating primarily as a business to business referral, it's fine to ask your collision repair expert to have your car checked by ADAS Diagnostic Solutions or even bring it in yourself, according to their service team. For information, email infor@adscalibrate.com or call 774-772-8403.

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# Upgrades to Webster Police, Fire, EMS radio systems coming

The South Worcester County Communications Center (SWCCC) Director Gregory Lynskey along with Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw and Webster Fire Chief Brian Hickey are pleased to announce that major upgrades to the Public Safety Radio Communications System in Webster are coming in the near future.

Following many years of planning, the Webster Public Safety Agencies will transition from antiquated analog radio channels to P25 digital radio channels effective August 14, 2023. These upgrades are a major step in improving operational safety for First Responders in the community and bring the Webster Public Safety Departments in compliance with national Public Safety Radio Interoperability standards.

“This is a major milestone in what has been a 7-year project that would not have been possible without the support and assistance of the State 911 Department through grant funding opportunities as well as the support of the residents of the Town of Webster who approved local funding for this project at several town meetings. While this milestone does not mark project completion, it is a substantial portion of the project,” said Director Lynskey. “Additional improvements to the system will continue over the next year with full project completion anticipated by summer 2024. We are extremely pleased to have such a great working relationship with both the communities we serve and the State 911 Department, as is evidenced by their continued funding support to improving Public Safety in Webster and Dudley,” he said.

Lynskey added that funding for this project consisted of \$139,467 in State 911 Support & Incentive Grant funding and \$582,171 in State 911 Regional Development Grant funding. Grant funds were obtained over a total of eight years through seven different awards. Additionally, a total of \$378,000 was approved between the May, 2022 and May, 2023 Webster Annual Town Meetings. The total project costs were \$1,100,000.

“I am thankful to SWCCC Director Lynskey for all of his hard work in achieving this milestone. The anticipated improvement in our communications is something the officers have been looking forward to for a very long time. I have no doubt this will have a positive impact on our

department in terms of officer safety,” Chief Shaw said.

Chief Hickey stated “Radio communications on the fire ground are no longer just another tool in the toolbox, they are critical to life safety, and every move we make towards a reliable and dependable system is essential to the well-being of our firefighters.”

At the same time that Webster Police and Webster Fire radio channels will transition to digital, the Webster EMS channel will also transition their radio channel to digital communications. While there are no plans to encrypt any of the public safety radio channels and while the operating frequencies will not change, we must note that many

older home scanners will not be capable of receiving the new digital channels. Residents who wish to monitor the public safety departments via a home scanner will need to ensure their current scanner, or any newly purchased scanner, is capable of receiving P25 digital transmissions.

The SWCCC has also obtained funding to upgrade the Public Safety Radio Communications Systems in the Town of Dudley, however due to delays in necessary equipment, a transition date for Dudley has not yet been determined.

## WEBSTER PUBLIC SAFETY P25 DIGITAL RADIO FREQUENCY INFORMATION:

Webster Police Ch. 1: 156.210 MHz – Network Access Code: 094

Webster Police Ch. 2: 155.7375 MHz – Network Access Code: 371

Webster Fire: 153.860 MHz – Network Access Code: 100

Webster EMS: 155.400 MHz – Network Access Code: 100



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# McGovern bill supports farms with sustainable food production practices

In July, U.S. Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Senior Member of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced a

bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production.

In a press release, McGovern's office said the bill will establish new opportunities for

farmers and food companies, creates new jobs in farming communities, advances United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to connect American farmers to new

markets at home and abroad, and expands consumer choices at the grocery store, through plant-based food research and production. The Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act, or PLANT Act, provides a blueprint for maintaining America's leadership in plant-based food production, while empowering farmers and rural communities and producing delicious, affordable food options for all Americans.

"The PLANT Act will help us win the future of food," said Rep. McGovern. "Plant-based foods are already creating new opportunities for farmers across the country and exciting new options for consumers, and this legislation will be a game-changer. By putting farmers and their communities front and center as we grow the greatest plant-based sector in the world, we can create countless good jobs while showing the world what makes American agriculture so strong. Now is the time to embrace the enormous potential that plant-based foods have to strengthen our economy and our food system."

"Congress should do more to

support farmers and food companies making plant-based foods when Congress renews the Farm Bill," said Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group's Senior Vice President for Government Affairs. "Supporting plant-based foods in the farm bill helps the farmers growing ingredients, helps the rural workers turning those ingredients into great foods, and helps ensure that America remains the world's plant-based foods leader. The USDA has always supported our meat and dairy farmers, investing more than \$50 billion since 1995. Now, to maintain our global leadership role, it's time for USDA to also support the farmers growing for the plant-based industry."

Specifically, the PLANT Act would provide support for U.S. farmers who grow the ingredients used in plant-based foods; ensure that food companies who turn those ingredients into plant-based foods are eligible for USDA producer programs; and make targeted R&D investments at USDA to foster American innovation.



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## Lt. Dorothy Taft Barre, RN WW II Army Nurse Corp Greatest Generation Park Project

*This project was made possible by a lead grant from The Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust.  
The Oxford Business Association would like to thank the following individuals  
and companies that made this project possible*

Ron & Karen Rheault  
Dan & Marilyn Prouty  
Jean M. & Paul D. O'Reilly  
Susan & Norman LeBlanc  
Bill & Kathy Dunn  
Atty. Melvyn Glickman  
George & Elizabeth DeFalco  
Meagan McIlvaine  
John & Peggy Prouty  
Timothy Prouty  
June Waldron  
James & Elizabeth Gilbride  
Larry Crowley  
Ron Gagner  
Ron Germain  
Wilson Language Training Corp.  
IPG Photonics  
Martha Rheault

Raymond Rheault  
Webster 5  
Mark Hopkins  
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Oxford Lions Club  
Richard & Jayne Polletta  
Aquarion Water Company

The Robbins Family  
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Nicholas Darlagiaunis  
Joyce Sirard  
Will Dupsha  
Ron Pederson  
Paul Hartland  
Russ Dion  
Ryan Anderson  
Tony Dahoff  
Justin Tortella  
Tom & Linda Coonan  
Matt Rosebrooks  
Boy Scout Troop 147  
Dean Mason Paving  
RC Rheault Construction  
Roger & Myrtle Bacon







**NOTE:** Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com).

**THROUGH OCTOBER 1**

• Daniels Farmstead in Blackstone is open for its 13th season of Farmers' Markets, every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Email [info@danielsfarmstead.org](mailto:info@danielsfarmstead.org) for further details or visit the Daniels Farmstead Foundation website at [www.danielsfarmstead.org](http://www.danielsfarmstead.org).

**AUGUST 12 & 13**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "Centuries of the Soldier," a timeline living history exhibition from as early as the Revolutionary War, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. [www.americanheritagemuseum.org](http://www.americanheritagemuseum.org) or call 978-562-9182.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

• Commemorate the Blackstone Valley's involvement in World War II by attending an informative and interactive afternoon of history presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Valley-CAST from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 30-70 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. The program is being offered in partnership with Open Sky Community Services. The event is free and open to all.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16**

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual Steamers at Sunset event will be held at The Barn at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To register or for more information about this signature event, email Liz O'Neil at [loneil@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:loneil@blackstonevalley.org) or Kristen Kearnan at [kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org).

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

• A "Hoppin' Hoedown Concert & Luncheon" will be held at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Roger Tincknell will entertain with a variety of early Country & Western songs from such greats as Jimmy Rodgers, Hank Williams, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers along with traditional cowboy songs and yodeling. The event will also feature 50s and 60s rockabilly, western swing and popular country pop tunes by such artists as Johnny Cash, Ray Price, Bob Wills, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard and Glen Campbell. A themed lunch will be served. Cost is \$10 per ticket with a limit of two tickets per person. Sign up in the main office. This event is supported in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. • "Adaptive Reuse in Manchaug." This program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Manchaug Mills, 9 Main St., Sutton, and it will show how the creative adaptation of an old industrial complex can take shape. Attendees will meet local historian Christine Watkins who will discuss the opportunities and challenges of working in a restored mill space. The program is being presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in partnership with Deb Dunleavy of Manchaug Mills Inc. • The Millbury Summer Concert Series

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| <br><b>AUGUST 27 • 7PM</b><br><small>SOLD OUT</small>    | <br><b>SEPTEMBER 2 • 1PM</b>                          |
| <br><b>SEPTEMBER 9 • 12PM</b>                            | <br><b>SEPTEMBER 24 • 12PM</b>                        |
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## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 9*

continues with a performance by Dan Gable & the Abletones at the Asa Waters Mansion. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Claffin Hill Summer Winds on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

• The Whitin Community Center will host

"Cars in the Park," 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

• The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center is planning a trip to The Theatre by the Sea to see the show "Jersey Boys." There will be a sit-down lunch at Bravo by the Sea with meal choices of haddock, chicken or pasta. Bus pickups will be at the Millbury Park and Ride in Millbury and at the Dollar General in Whitinsville. The cost including driver gratuity is \$150. Call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more details about this trip and a five-day trip in September to Penn Dutch to see the brand new show "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Theatre.

• An Alzheimer's Association Lunch & Learn Program is being offered at Plummer

Highland St., Whitinsville, at 11:30 a.m. The topic is "Effective Communication Strategies." Space is limited. Sign up in the main office.

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Belit at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Dynamite Rhythm on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

• The Webster Dudley Business Alliance will

from 4-8 p.m. on Aug. 23. It's a chance to celebrate the summer and showcase your business at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen, 9 Frederick Street, Webster. A Farmers Market featuring Local food and artisan items along with a DJ will round out the event. Crafters, food vendors and all businesses are invited to participate. Family fun activities like face painting, balloon animals and more will add to the festive atmosphere. Don't forget to get in on the raffles and giveaways. Live broadcast from 5-7 p.m. on WQVR FM 99.3. Vendors should file an application from thewdba.org and register by Aug. 14. Vendors must provide their own tables. Fee is \$30.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

• The 2nd Annual Parking Lot Craft Fair sponsored by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be held at 41 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Vendors are welcome. Contact Helen at auburnmuseum@verizon.net to reserve a space for \$15.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

• The Art of Bow Making will be offered at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. This class will demonstrate how to make bows for use in your home and/or for packages. Space is limited. Sign up in the main office.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with The Eagles Experience on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Andrew Noone, author of "Bathsheba

Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to [www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org) for further info.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

• A Scam Alert Program presented by the Worcester County DA's office will be held at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, at 12:45 p.m. Kevin Donohue returns to help attendees recognize and learn about what scams are out there. Sign up in the main office. Light refreshments will be served.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

• Bethel Lutheran Church/Grace Ministries will host a Community Yard Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn. Rent a table for just \$25. Contact Jackie Walsh at 508-769-0879 for [jackmae@charter.net](mailto:jackmae@charter.net) to register for this event. This organization is under the umbrella of the Auburn Historical Society and has just completed a year-long fundraising project to restore the Green Dome, which sat atop the 1935 original Auburn High School building. When the seventy-two year-old building was demolished, the Green Dome was able to be removed and saved. It had fallen into disrepair as it passed from several town departments, the Historical Commission and the Town Manager's office. It now sits on Auburn HS property where it has been restored and renovated, thanks to a dedicated "Save the Dome" Committee.

• An Evening with Elvis - at St. Denis Church, Douglas - Doors open at 5pm, performance starts at 5:30pm. \$20 per person (21+) includes finger sandwiches, pasta salad, chips, veggies and dip, baked goods, coffee, tea, soda, water. Beer and Wine available for \$5 each (limit 2 drinks per person). Raffle Baskets • 50/50 Cash Raffle • 50s

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## Racicot book signing

A book signing release event for "The Haunting of the Oxford Library" by local author Robert Racicot, Aug. 19 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. Do you believe in ghosts? The Library Rats, a small group of middle school students who regularly meet at the Oxford Library never thought about that question until they witness a strange sighting. The Rats begin the hunt to find evidence of the possibility that the library could be haunted by a real ghost.

The event is free and open to the public. Signed copies will be available for purchase.

Robert Racicot is a retired Air Force Lt Col and Professor of Chemistry. He is enjoying his retirement years hiking, mountain biking, and writing stories, and

poetry. He is the author of the young reader book "The Legend of



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For more information or to RSVP, call 508-949-6232 or email [deb@bookloversgourmet.com](mailto:deb@bookloversgourmet.com).

theme (dressing for the era is encouraged!). For more information or to reserve your ticket(s), visit SaintDenisChurch.com

**SEPTEMBER 16 & 17**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "World War I/Early Aviation Weekend," showcasing the original 1917 Nieuport 28—American's first and oldest fighter aircraft, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

• The UMass Cancer Walk and Run, celebrating twenty-five years of the community's commitment to cancer research, will take place at Polar Park in Worcester. Go to umasscancerwalk.org or email cancerwalk@umassmed.edu for further details.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

• The Greenway Challenge takes place in the Blackstone Valley and around the region.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**

• The 7th Annual New England Electrical & Alarm Expo takes place from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Twin River Casino, 100 Twin River Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island. The Exhibitor Show Floor opens at 3:30 p.m. More than 400 manufacturers will be represented. Visit neeae.com for further details.

**OCTOBER 7 & 8**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "Battle for the Airfield WW II Re-Enactment Weekend," with over 350 re-enactors from branches of the Allied and Axis military participating in encampments and battles, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

**OCTOBER 9-23**

• The Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library in Douglas's fourth annual online auction begins. Donations for the event

will be accepted through September 14th at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the library's capital campaign to renovate the building and make it handicapped accessible. The Friends are also accepting sponsorships from community members or businesses.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Mark Savoio of the Thompson Historical Society for the presentation "The Mass 15th of the Civil War and Wilder Holbrook,

Sutton," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's 45th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club on Armsby Road in Sutton from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Do you know a business or individual deserving of recognition, or a business that is celebrating a milestone

anniversary? Submit your nomination to Liz O'Neil at loneil@blackstonevalley.org.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 2024**

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Home & Community Expo will be held at the Northbridge High School Field House on Linwood Avenue in Whitinsville from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration will occur late summer, early fall.

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**CENTURIES OF THE SOLDIER**  
**August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Military Living History Time-Line Event**

**American Heritage Museum**  
 Museum Open Wed.-Fri. 10 AM to 5 PM








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Scan QR for Event Page



**568 Main Street, Hudson, MA www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org (978) 562-9182**

# History is in the details

Old Sturbridge Village will host its annual Textile Weekend event from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 12, and Sunday, Aug. 13. Explore historical textiles and traditional crafts associ-

ated with them all weekend long. Included with standard daytime admission or membership to the Village, the event will focus on the theme of “Behind the Scenes & Seams”, highlighting the original clothing and textile-related objects from the museum’s permanent collections.

As a follow-up to last year’s popular demonstration, special activities during this year’s event will include sewing two dresses in real time over the course of the weekend – this time for a mother and daughter! Skilled sewists will assemble for two days to complete all the stitches needed to create two dresses, while periodically trying the dresses on the wearers to test the fit and showcase progress.

“We’re thrilled to expand upon last year’s successful dressmaking project with double the dresses for 2023,” said Carrie Midura, Coordinator of Historical Clothing and Households. “In addition to having the help of our skilled dressmaking staff and long-term volunteers, it is especially exciting to be able to include five talented college students during the final weekend of their summer internship at Old Sturbridge Village. They’ve been studying the fashions and sewing techniques of the 1830s and we can’t wait to see them put their newly gained skills



and knowledge to use during Textile Weekend.”

Additional demonstrations will take place each day (subject to change), including:

- Wool dyeing demonstrations at the Herb Garden
- Reproducing a tin sewing box, based on an original example
- Tailoring men’s fashionable 19th-century garments
- Discussion of 1830s knitting and weaving patterns with skilled needleworkers
- Working with a variety of plants and tools to create braid for making straw bonnets and hats

Be sure to also see Old Sturbridge Village’s “Needle & Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing, an Early 19th Century Family” exhibit. The exhibit explores the complex story of where materials came from, fashion and practical clothing advice, and the emergence of the readymade clothing industry. Clothing featured in the

exhibit changes periodically for the different seasons, so even if you have been to the exhibit before, there is always something new to be seen.

“Our newest textile exhibit, Needle & Thread, has been on view for a year and has been the perfect opportunity to focus on the extraordinary breadth of Old Sturbridge Village’s textile collection and contextualize the intersection between domestic sewing and skilled needle trades,” says Rebecca Beall, Collections Manager and Curator of Textiles. “A recent partial reinstallation highlights the nexus between the Village’s textile collection and the creation of historical reproduction garments, particularly the meticulous work of recent Ddora Foundation Costume Fellows in an exhibition of reproduction historical clothing and the extant garments.”

For more details on the event or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/textile-weekend-2023/>.

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# Samuel Slater Experience adds Thursday hours, August Adventures

Samuel Slater Experience is now open on Thursdays! The museum began special new hours on July 13th and is now open Monday-Wednesday by appointment, Thursday, Friday and

diversity of the Massachusetts arts and culture community.

Visit Samuel Slater Experience for free on Saturday, August 19th. Tours take about an hour and a half. Due to the large number of

can Industrial Revolution and its people come alive.

First off, during the Orientation, visitors learn about the beginnings of a mill economy, with examples of the spinning and weaving tools that predate the American Industrial Revolution.

Other exhibits as visitors make their way through the museum include “Meet young Samuel Slater in Belper, England;” “Samuel Slater’s Shipboard Immersive Theater Experience;” “Slater arrives in NYC—was that a rat I just saw?;” “Slater settles in Rhode Island;” “Master of Industry—Samuel Slater’s office;” “A tough life—mill worker’s bedroom and kitchen;” “Waterwheel and Slater’s Mill;” “Create your own textile;” “Mill workers’ working life and community life;” “Why this Place? Webster 1820 to 1900;” “Town of Webster Streetscape;” “The Trolley Car 4D Experience;” “Maanexit Hotel;” “Mannexit Hotel Speak-easy;” “The Liberty Theater interior;” “Webster Times interior;” “Make your own Webster Times newspaper;” “Racicot Bros. general store;” “Dugan’s drug store;” and “Webster Then and Now.”

To make a donation in support of one of the region’s coolest happening place this summer, go to samuelslaterexperience.org.



Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m.

With Thursdays added, Samuel Slater Experience is now poised for Highland Street Foundation’s August Adventures, which will provide access and opportunities to new and old partners highlighting the geographical and cultural

anticipated participants, only ten people will be allowed per time slot.

Email [admin@samuelslaterexperience.org](mailto:admin@samuelslaterexperience.org) or call 50-461-2955.

The Samuel Slater Experience comprises more than twenty unique, immersive exhibits that make the history of the Ameri-

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- 2 lbs. Ham Steaks
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- 3 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast **OR** 2 lbs. Hot Dogs

### B. \$50.00 BUNDLE

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- 1-1/2 lbs. New York Sirloin Steak
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- 1 lb. Hot Dogs
- 2 lbs. Boneless Spareribs **OR**
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| Sat.  | 9AM  | 3PM     | 4PM   |

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# Gaming event set for August

Open Sky Community Services will co-host a gaming event in collaboration with ES Gaming, EasterSeals MA Assistive Technology, Impruvon Health,

and Seven Hills at the Alternatives Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville.

This free and exciting event will be held on Sunday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

There will be a gaming truck, lawn games, a DJ and Anzio's pizza. All ages and ability levels welcome.

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/FSC-Gaming-Event>. This is a free event, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Jennifer MacNeill with any questions at 508-318-7566 or [jennifer.macneill@openskycs.org](mailto:jennifer.macneill@openskycs.org).

### About the Family Support Center

The Family Support Center is a program of Open Sky Community Services, funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

that supports children and adults with developmental/intellectual challenges and Autism who live with their families in the communities of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Grafton, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Millbury, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge. The Center is available to support the entire family.

### About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services, Inc. offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children

with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky, which was formed through the affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, has over 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$90M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).



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## Free concert series

ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, is proud to announce the return of its Free Summer Concert Series featuring an incredible line-up of local bands playing a wide variety of popular music.

The Free Summer Concert Series

continues 6-8 p.m. Thursday evenings on the plaza through Aug.31 at the Alternatives' Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In case of inclement weather, the concerts move indoors to the Singh Performance Center at the same location.

Concert goers are invited to wander in and out of the Heritage

Gallery during the concerts to explore the Weaving Community exhibit. Interactive displays and two looms are set up in the gallery for people to try their hands at weaving and participate in community weaving projects with their neighbors.



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# Charlton Old Home Day Road Race

The 56th Annual Charlton Old Home Day Road Race will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 3. It's a five mile race starting at the Common in the center of town and follows a figure-eight course, halfway through bringing the runners back by the Common and past the spectators. It's considered a challenging course by some due to its hilly terrain. Walkers are, of course, welcomed.

The race is USATF sanctioned (USA Track and Field).

Registration can be done online at [charltonold-homedayroadrace.com](http://charltonold-homedayroadrace.com). Bib pick-up and same day registration 7:30-8:50 a.m. in front of Town Hall.

The awards ceremony and raffle prizes will be given out 10:45 a.m., also at Town Hall.

### About Old Home Day

Old Home Day is an event held in Charlton, Massachusetts on Labor Day weekend at the end of each summer. Established in 1897, the event brings friends, neighbors, family, and visitors together with a true community spirit. It is a tradition begun over 120 years ago when the citizens of Charlton gathered at the end of summer, before the beginning of the fall harvest and the onset of winter.

The essence of Old Home Day consists of a tradition, which reminds us all that we are part of a community. It offers a chance for folks to join and reflect on the important things required to be a citizen here in a small town in Massachusetts. This day celebrates the town, the people and the past, and it's so much fun!

The entertainment and many of the activities vary from year to year, but are free of charge. It is a day filled with exciting entertainment, traditional events, friendship and fun to the residents of Charlton, neighboring towns, extended families, acquaintances and anyone who wants to know what Charlton is really all about!



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# 2023-24 school year openings



**Auburn**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 First day of classes for all students

**Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 16**  
 Freshman cookout – 5 p.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 17**  
 Freshman orientation, Day 1

**Friday, Aug. 18**  
 Freshman orientation, Day 2  
**Monday, Aug. 21**  
 First day of classes for all students

**Dudley Charlton**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day for Grades 1-12  
**Friday, Sept. 8** First day for Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten

**Grafton**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day Kindergarten – Grade 12  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 Pre-Kindergarten Open House  
**Tuesday, Sept. 5**  
 First day of Pre-Kindergarten

**Millbury**  
**Monday, Aug. 28**  
 First day of school for Grades 1 – 12

**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Kindergarten  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**

First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten

**Oxford**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Grades 1- 12  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 First day of school for Kindergarten  
**Wednesday, Sept. 6**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten

**Sutton**  
**Thursday, Aug. 31**  
 First day of school for all grades

**Webster**  
**Thursday, Aug. 31**  
 First day of classes for Grades 1 -12  
**Wednesday, Sept. 6**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

**Shepherd Hill Regional High School**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 22**  
 Freshman “Jumpstart” program 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Grades 1- 12+  
**Tuesday, Sept 5**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten



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# August events at Purgatory Chasm

**P**urgatory Chasm State Reservation is located at 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton.

All programs are free and open to the public. Bring water, wear sunscreen/bug spray, and dress for the outdoors. Sturdy footwear is strongly recommended for hiking events. An adult must accompany all children. Hiking programs are canceled in inclement weather.

## CHASM HIKE

**FRIDAYS 11 A.M. – 12 P.M., SATURDAYS 2–3 PM, SUNDAYS 3–4 PM**

Scramble around boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm! Find out about the park's history and cultural influence, the chasm's rock formations, or the wildlife that call the chasm home. Meet at the pavilion at the mouth of the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About a half mile over moderate terrain.

## CHASM PRIMER

**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 11:30 AM**

Find out the chasm's history in just 15 minutes. This is the perfect primer before your hike through the chasm. Meet at the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and up.

## GLACIAL GEOLOGY HIKE MONDAYS 2–3:30 P.M.

Discover our glacial past on this 1-mile hike to Little Purgatory. Explore evidence of the ice that blanketed this park over 10,000 years ago. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. About one mile over moderate terrain.

## KIDLEIDOSCOPE MONDAYS 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Join us each week for Kidleidoscope! We will read a short book, followed by an outdoor activity. Afterwards, enjoy a craft that relates to the story. Each week has a new theme, stop by often. Meet at the Visitor Center. Designed for ages 3 to 6. Siblings are welcome. During inclement weather this will be held in the Visitor Center.

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH FRIDAYS 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

Hiking trails are the heart of our park system and getting outdoors is a great way to exercise! Join us on this recreational hike with other like-minded people. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About one mile

over easy terrain.

## ROCK DETECTIVES SATURDAYS 11 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? See a bunch of different rocks and find out more about where they have been and where they are going. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

## SECRETS OF THE SKULL SUNDAYS 11 A.M. – 12 P.M.

We can learn many things about how an animal lives by looking at its skull. Join us to look for clues about how different animals survive by examining their skulls. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

## TIME TRAVELER TOUR SATURDAYS 4 – 5 PM

Take a step back in time! Get an introduction to this unique park

as we walk among the historic structures and geological features, jumping around the park's history all the while. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Approximately one mile over easy terrain.

Please note that public program-

ming may be affected by construction projects taking place within the park.

For more information call 508-234-9610 or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/purgatory-chasm-state-reservation>

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| 2021 HONDA ACCORD LX - 1.5L  | 1HGCV1F14MA106909 | 10-5-22    | 3BVE67-MA  |
| 2021 ACCURA TLX SH - AWD     | 19UUB6F53MA002571 | 12-5-22    | 3ABZ24-MA  |
| 2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS 1.8  | 1G1PC5SH2C7404900 | 3-22-23    | 3BVA34 -MA |
| 2004 ACURA TL - 3.2L, V6     | 19UUA66254A000958 | 7-12-22    | 8893TW-MA  |
| 2007 BUICK LUCERNE CX - 3.8L | 1G4HP5727U164346  | 1-16-23    | 2WN567-MA  |

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**SPORTS**

# Local High School Football Schedules

## SHEPHERD HILL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – THE RAMS

Week 1 – Sept. 8 Away at Concord-Carlisle  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Groton- Dunstable  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Fitchburg  
 Week 4 – Sept. 30 Homecoming game vs. Westborough  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Home vs. Algonquin  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Nashoba  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Away at Marlborough  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Away at Grafton  
 Week 9 - Nov. 23 Thanksgiving game Away at Tantasqua Regional



## AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL – THE ROCKETS

Preseason Aug. 26 Home vs. Hudson 10 a.m.  
 Preseason Aug. 31 Away at Grafton 5 p.m.  
 Week 1 – Sept. 8 Home vs. Swampscott 7 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Tantasqua Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Maynard (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 4 – Sept. 29 Home vs. Fitchburg (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away vs. St. Bernard's Central Catholic (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Worcester Tech (non-league) 5:30 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Home vs. Northbridge 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Away at Uxbridge 7 p.m.  
 Week 9 - Nov. 23 Thanksgiving game Away at Leicester (non-league) 10 a.m.



## OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL – THE PIRATES

Week 1 – Sept. 9 Away at Worcester Tech (non-league) 3 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Millbury 7 p.m.  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Uxbridge (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 4 - Sept. 30 Home vs. Abby Kelley Foster (non-league) 3 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away at Quaboag Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Quabbin Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Home vs. Bartlett/Douglas 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Home vs. Leicester 7 p.m.  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Home vs. Baypath Regional Vocational (non-league) 7 p.m.



## BARTLETT/WEBSTER - INDIANS

Week 1 – Sept. 9 Away at. Burncoat, Worcester (non-league) 12 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Home vs. Keefe Technical (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 3 - Sept. 22 Home vs. Abby Kelley Foster (non-league)  
 Week 4 – Sept. 29 Home vs. Minuteman Regional (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away at Prouty (Spencer) 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Home vs. Worcester North (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Away at Oxford 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Home vs. Quaboag Regional 6 p.m.  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Home vs. Southbridge (non-league) 10:15 a.m.



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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Where are the remains of Rhode Island's first settler?

## A mystery in two parts

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The title of this story poses an enigma in regard to the history of the Ocean State. So do the events that follow. If you visit Cumberland, Rhode Island, you will see a town rich with the history of industry and economic growth. Its mill houses and factory buildings that grace this parcel of land abound with stories and legends that are common to America's youth. One portion of the town's history is filled with a mystery that spans centuries.

If you visit the village of Lonsdale, a section of Cumberland, take a trip to the Ann & Hope Mill Outlet. It was once the largest outlet store in the state as well as a monument of history in itself. Take a walk a little north of the parking lot and you will see a monument in a little square. This monument is the final resting place of Rhode Island's first white settler, the Reverend William Blackstone, sometimes spelled Blaxton. There is one small problem, however, he is not resting there. Where is he

then? Well, that is what we would all like to know. His story after his death is more interesting and mysterious than his achievements of being first founder of Rhode Island, alleged first founder of Boston, Massachusetts, and a minister of the Anglican Church.

Reverend William Blackstone settled in Shawmut, now Boston, in 1628. He became the solitary inhabitant after the rest of his fellow settlers left the area. But, it wasn't long before he was sharing the real estate with the Puritans. Over the next couple of years, the two co-existed in somewhat harmony. Reverend Blackstone soon had his share of the Puritans and in 1635 sold his land on what is now Beacon Hill and Charles Street. He then headed south towards present day Rhode Island. With his belongings, which included at one point, the largest library in New England, (it was one of the most extensive libraries of the new world), he settled in present day Cumberland. There he built a home removed from all other colonial influence and lived in his

sought-after solitude of himself and his library. He called his home "Study Hill." He is also credited with starting the first apple orchard in Rhode Island on his piece of real estate.

Reverend Blackstone lived in peace among the local Indigenous Peoples as a self-imposed recluse until 1659 when he wed Sarah Stevenson of Boston. They had one son together named Johnathon. Sarah died in 1673 and the reverend would follow two years later in 1675 at eighty years of age. He was buried near his home on Study Hill which was marked by two boulders abreast of a quartz stone marker. Shortly after, the King Philip's War broke out among the colonists and Indians, and the very natives he lived in harmony with, burned his estate to the ground.

It wasn't until 1855 when the saga picks up again. It was then that a group of citizens gathered around the overgrown roughshod grave to pay tribute to their founder and raise money to have a proper, more modern monument planted in the place of the anti-

quated rock pile. Donations were taken but the monument never materialized. Neither did any refunds to the charity givers.

Many years would pass as time took its toll and the weeds grew high hiding William Blackstone's grave from common sight until The Lonsdale Company, owned by the firm of Brown and Ives, decided to expand their operations by building a mill on the Blackstone River. This meant leveling Study Hill and moving Reverend Blackstone's remains to another place.

Luckily, a certain William Gammell was not only one of the directors of the Lonsdale Company, but the president of the Rhode Island Historical Society so when the Ann & Hope Mill was to take the place of Study Hill, it was he who saved the remains of William Blackstone from being totally dug up and lost. At least, for a while.

A special meeting was held on July 26, 1886 where it is written that on May 6, 1886, respected Providence undertakers, Miles and Luther, exhumed the grave of

William Blackstone only to find a few pieces of bone, some bone dust and the remaining nails from what once held together his long since deteriorated coffin. These artifacts were put in a special lead sealed box and were prepared for reburial. Witnesses to this historic act were Mr. Gammell and a descendant of the Reverend Blackstone, a Mr. Lorenzo Blackstone.

Three years later the company decided it was going to erect a monument in honor of the great reverend. Yet at another meeting held on July 26, 1889, the descendants of Mr. Blackstone resolved to bear the expenses of erecting the monument that would relate the history, in their words, (as accurately as possible) the life and attributes of William Blackstone. The Lonsdale Company had no objections. Now is where things begin to get sketchy and plans go awry.

*The solution to the puzzle of the missing minister will be revealed in the next issue.*

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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# Luke's Right to Play

BY AMY LECLAIRE

**T**ruth. Having a dog is like having another kid. Dogs need our discipline, love, energy, and patience. Dogs remind us to be on top of our game. “No Slackers Allowed,” they tell us.

Big dogs have big needs. Do they have bigger needs than little dogs? Perhaps their needs are simply different. Luke is not a particularly needy dog (or overly big) but he's a playful one. His favorite game happens to be Chase, a game that's been written about, a game branded by the unsubtle push of a stuffed animal—directly into the square of our butts.

“Ooh!”

“Ahh!”

“Luke!”

The jolt takes us by surprise. Then, game on. The stuffed lamb hangs from his mouth like a dead bird. You're It. We've been nominated. “I'm gonna' get you!” We raise our hands like a monster's while, spooked, Luke rushes away and slides around corners of the house, slipping foolishly. Pizza is about to be delivered.

“Hello there.” I open the door, disheveled, and wipe stray hairs from my sweaty cheek. “Let me take that from you.” The delivery man simply wants to accept his tip and split, but my 68-pound Golden wants IN on this new person. He wiggles. He whimpers. Chase has become a distant memory. “I don't really know you, but you smell good.” He drops the lamb and picks up a sneaker to share. “Oh, and I

love you, too.” Pizza Man shuffles to make a smooth transition. Rather inconveniently, a paper receipt falls to the ground and Luke snatches it up. I extract wet paper from his mouth and struggle to accept a pizza still unpaid for. I want to wash my hands so badly, but things are starting to feel awkward. “Excuse me. Young dog here.” I'm embarrassed. Worse, I make excuses for my own lack of proper dog



to own him.

“I walked him the long way.”

“I did hose play.”

“I stayed up late with him.”

Luke follows the conversation and awaits the verdict. “Aren't I the cutest male Golden?” Luke's cuteness, admittedly, has kept him out of trouble. I've watched him dig holes wide and deep in the yard. I can't help but admire how productive he is. “Luke is as powerful as a motor! He dug that hole in 30 seconds flat! He's a natural landscaper, I swear.” My husband, visibly worn-down by Luke's hobby, covers the hole like a gravedigger. “Daddy is so good at yard work.” He smiles down at his work. “We're such a good team.”

Luke, though needing assistance at times, surprises us as well. Sometimes he handles boredom like a champ. He noses through his toy box, pulls a toy out, and lays down to chew. His independence warms our hearts, though in a bit-

tersweet kind of way.

“Look at Luke! He's self-soothing with that smelly, old bat!” We watch him play by himself, his paws stretched at eleven, a crinkly bat (a first toy) between his paws. “No one wants him! This is so sad. He doesn't ask for much, and we're all too busy.”

Oblivious, he nibbles at the bat's broken wing. He's moved on. Dogs do not dwell on problems. Sometimes (the irony) we lie beside him while he chews and crowd him. Independence may be the goal, but we can't bear to watch him grow up too fast. “What a good choice, Luke!” He looks up at me. “I'm a purebred good boy.” Then he licks me on the lips.

\* \* \*

“Has Luke gone for a walk?” My son faces me with deep concern while I prepare to leave the house. Keys in hand, I ponder the interrogation. Ben has been to Italy, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Aruba, Iceland and soon to be Nashville in a span of years that have had me rolling lint brushes across black clothing. “I've walked nearly as many dogs as your age,” I think to myself. “Good idea, Ben,” comes out instead. “Let's try and make a walk happen.” My son's intentions are good. Like me, he worries about our pup. We may not be a perfect dog family, but one thing is for sure when it comes to living with Luke. We love this dog—a once bashful pup nestled beside his brother, the darker of his littermates. We love Luke Valentino, and we understand his right to play.

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training. Front Door Greetings are huge when it comes to this. Luke should be waiting patiently for me to decide when the time is right for a front door exchange with Mr. Pizza. “Have I told you lately how much I love you?” Instead, he licks the young man's hands, and fails to respect boundaries.

“It's your turn.” Luke's exuberance has led my family to keep score regarding the work required



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REAL ESTATE

# Pricing your house right still matters today

While this isn't the frenzied market we saw like the past few, homes that are priced right are still selling quickly and seeing multiple offers right now. That's because the number of



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

To set yourself up to see advantages like these, you need to rely on a REALTOR or real estate agent. Only an agent has the expertise needed to find the right asking price for your house. Here's what's at stake if that price isn't accurate for today's market value.

The price you set for your house sends a message to potential buyers. Price it too low and you might raise questions about your home's condition or lead buyers to assume something is wrong with it. Not to mention, if you undervalue your house, you could leave money on the table, which decreases your future buying power.

On the other hand, price it too high and you run the risk of deterring buyers from ever touring it in the first place. When that happens, you may have to do a price drop

to try to re-ignite interest in your house when it sits on the market for a while. But be aware that a price drop can be seen as a red flag for some buyers who will wonder why the price was reduced and what that means about the home.

It can be thought of this way; your house's market debut is your first chance to attract a buyer and it's important to get the pricing right. If your home is overpriced, you run the risk of buyers not seeing the listing.

But price your house too low and you could end up leaving some serious money on the table. A bargain-basement price could also turn some buyers away, as they may wonder if there are any underlying problems with the house.

Think of pricing your home as a target. Your goal is to aim directly for the center – not too high, not too low, but right at market value. Pricing your house fairly based on market conditions increases the chance you'll have more buyers who are interested in purchasing

it. That makes it more likely you'll see multiple offers too. Plus, when homes are priced right, they still tend to sell quickly.

Lean on a professional's expertise to price your house right. So why is an agent essential in finding the right price? Your local agent has the skill, tools and the insight necessary to find the market value of your home. They'll use their expertise to determine a realistic listing price by assessing:

The prices of recently sold homes

The current market conditions

The size and condition of your house

The location of your house

Pricing your house at market value is critical, so don't rely on guesswork. Work with a trusted REALTORS like The Marzeotti Group or another professional to make sure your house is priced right for today's market.



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Jesus

## Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**

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**TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING** *dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com*

# 529 Plans offer benefits in all markets

**A** new school year will soon begin. And if you have young children, that means it's one year closer to the day when they head off to college or some other post-secondary education



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

or training. You might be preparing for that day with a 529 education savings plan — but should you be concerned if you need to start taking withdrawals to pay for education expenses when the financial markets are volatile?

Long-term investment vehicles based on the financial markets, like a 529 plan, will always fluctuate

in value. If you've had a 529 plan for many years, you've probably invested money when the market has been up, down and flat. In fact, during down periods, it's often a good time to invest, because your dollars buy more shares than they could when prices are up. Your hope is that, over the years, your 529 plan will gain enough to overcome the short-term declines in value.

In any case, you'll want to keep in mind the key benefit of 529 plans: Earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free when the money is used for qualified education expenses for college and some trade school programs. And your state may give you an income tax deduction or a credit for your 529 plan contributions. In some states, a 529 plan can be used for K-12 schooling as well.

You have another incentive to keep your 529 plan intact despite temporary drops in value. Specifically, if you withdraw money and don't use it for eligible education expenses, your withdrawal may be subject to a 10% penalty, in addition to state and federal income taxes. That could be a high price to pay for a move that may not be in your best interest. After all, if you were to move your 529 plan money into a minimal-risk asset, such as some type of cash vehicle, you could sacrifice some of the growth potential you might need to meet the high costs of higher education.

Many 529 plans offer investment portfolios that gradually become more risk averse as the beneficiary gets closer to college age. A financial advisor can discuss the investment options with you.

While this investment feature doesn't guarantee you'll have complete immunity from financial market volatility, it can help reduce its impact when you need access to the money.

Here's one more point to keep in mind: Just because you've planned to access your 529 plan when your child reaches 18, or whatever age they begin their post-secondary education, you're not required to take money out at that point. You can keep your 529 plan intact until you feel more comfortable making withdrawals, though you'll need to consider how this decision will affect your ability to help pay for your child's education.

The financial markets will always be in some type of flux, but don't let these movements deter you from sticking with a 529 plan — it's still one of the best investments you can make in your child's future.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or [dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com). Edward Jones Member SIPC*



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# Camry wins out as a dependable, fuel-efficient car

**Q.** I have a 2012 Infiniti M37x, when slowing down fast not to a complete stop and then reaccelerating the transmission will clunk, more in standard mode than in sport drive mode. Please analyze and recommend a remedy.

**A.** Now certainly at 11 years old there could be some wear and tear to the transmission and axle shafts which is certainly worth checking. But interestingly Infiniti does have a technical service bulletin that could provide a solution. In some vehicles the axle shafts bind in the hubs and cause a clunk. The fix is to loosen the axle nut, push the axle back and lubricate the axle splines with an anti-seize lubricant. I would give this a try before pursuing more costly repairs.

**Q.** I want to thank you for your advice. I was looking for a vehicle to replace my Chevy Traverse, that would be easy to get in and out, easy to drive and park but have some cargo carrying ability. I don't carry anything heavy, groceries, plants, and flowers. You gave me a few recommendations and talked me out of a few as well. I settled on the Subaru Impreza, it has room, and it is easy to maneuver and fit in my budget.

**A.** The Subaru Impreza is an easy pick. For a compact car it has good room, the ride is comfortable, decent fuel economy, the overall handling is quite good and the all-wheel drive is a great choice for New England winters.

**Q.** I have a Toyota and the cooling fan comes on when the engine gets hot and runs just about all the time. The engine temperature is 210 degrees and I'm worried the engine is overheating. Where should I look for problems?

**A.** I would start with the basics, depending on the age of the car, the radiator could be partially clogged, the thermostat may not open fully, and the cooling fan may be starting to slow down due to age. Also keep in mind that 210 degrees is

not overheating. A 50/50 mix of coolant and water and a pressurized radiator will boost the boiling point to over 250 degrees.

**Q.** I recently purchased a 1981 Chevy Malibu wagon for my beach house (a beach wagon) and the one odd issue is the air conditioner only blows air on the floor not out the dash vents, although occasionally, it does switch to defrost. It isn't that big a deal, but it would be nice if the A/C worked properly. Any ideas?

**A.** These cars used vacuum operated controls and blend doors. To keep everything working properly while driving there was a vacuum reserve tank (looks like a black plastic softball). Check to see if there is a vacuum leak at the tank. At the same time, it may be a good idea to replace as many of the 42-year-old vacuum hoses as possible.

**Q.** I drive a Toyota Camry hybrid, it is good on gas, roomy for four adults and it is quiet on the highway. I was with a friend car shopping, and he was looking at an Audi A6, a nice car but it cost nearly twice as much as my Camry. He claims it is well worth the money and is a much better car. What do you think?

**A.** The Audi is a great car, the handling is quite good, the fuel economy isn't too bad, the ride is somewhat firm but that adds to the handling and the cabin is very nicely finished. The Camry is one of the best and most dependable mid-sized sedans, the hybrid has fantastic fuel economy, the ride and handling is smooth and confident, but not sporty. The interior is comfortable but not as luxurious as an Audi. Is the Camry much better than the A6, it depends on what you are looking for in a car. If you are looking for a high-quality interior, sports sedan handling and luxury car prestige, yes, the Audi offers that. If you are looking for a dependable comfortable fuel-efficient car the Camry wins out over the Audi.

**Q.** I recently purchased a 2022 Kia Stinger, perhaps one of the best cars I have ever owned. My only disappointment is with the sound system. The sound isn't as rich and deep as I would like. Is there a way to improve the sound?

**A.** Generally, the Harman Kardon system in the Stinger gets the same high marks that the rest of the car gets. In my opinion the Stinger is one of the best sedans on the road and I remember the radio to be very good, but I'm hardly an

audiophile. I would start by making sure the 700 plus watt sound system is working properly. If it is, then a trip to a good car audio store would be my next step. This car has up to 15 speakers, perhaps upgrading some of the speakers may get the sound you are looking for.

*Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*

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