

Gowns are Free at Oxford's Prom Closet

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Michelle Aronson and Debra Mercure have been collecting prom gowns for high school students for five years now. They are dedicated high school teaching colleagues who saw a need and set about finding a solution. Many high school girls couldn't afford to attend their Senior Proms because of the large expenses involved. Aronson's and Mercure's dedication and persistence speaks volumes about their character and desire to fulfill the needs of students to attend one of the most significant social events of high school without having to spend hundreds of dollars for fashionable and beautiful gowns and accessories. The young ladies who visit their prom gown outlet will attend their proms in the most elegant and kicky styles their tastes prefer. All at no cost.



"We wanted the kids to go to their proms without having to spend \$500 or more for their formal wear," said Aronson, "we had many community donations and decided we could help with their gowns. Prom tickets are \$100 or more. When you add in the cost of their dresses, shoes, nails, makeup, and hair, the ultimate price is out of sight. Many of the girls are into thrifting and repurposing now so this works out very well for them. If they are going to college, they can certainly use the extra cash they'll save by choosing one of these beautiful gowns. College

books and fees are expensive. Now they can dedicate the money they're saving for college expenses. Some of these dresses are priced at \$900 and are just perfect. They borrow from us and wear the item for four hours and then clean and return it. It works out very well. The styles are from vintage to contemporary."

The Prom Closet also offers shoes, jewelry, hair pins, and accessories. It's really a one-stop shop. Many of the students visit with a favorite pair of shoes and go about searching for just the right complementary gown. "It's all

about helping them have a good time," said Aronson, "We fit them and help adjust the gowns. We have sizes from 0 to 26. We carry over 600 dresses and currently have lent out about 50 but our appointment schedule is becoming more booked as the prom season of May nears. We have over 100 pairs of shoes from heels to flats. All of the girls who visit us are very appreciative. They are from local high schools as well as from the Worcester, Springfield, and

PROM CLOSET
continued on page 2

Auburn Updates on Opioid Settlement Proceeds, Migrant Families, New Fire Station, and New Housing Development Status

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz recently reported to the Board of Selectmen regarding Auburn's share of the Opioid Settlement proceeds and advised the

town voted to create a General Fund Opioid Stabilization account for all future proceed deposits. The town has deposited the \$23,308.04 received on August 23, 2023 and the remaining funds of \$134,234.62 will be voted on at the next town meeting."



Board that "the Town has received \$134,234.62 in fiscal year 2023 and \$23,308.04 so far in fiscal year 2024. The funds were required to be recorded as General Fund revenue in 2023 and appropriated with a vote at Town Meeting. In May 2023 at the Annual Town Meeting, the

"Discussions with the School Department, Public Health, Public Safety, and Youth & Family Services are currently underway to deter-

AUBURN
continued on page 3

Power up your savings!

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

open in-branch or online at bankHometown.com today!

5.00%^{APY¹}
7-MONTH CD

5.12%^{APY²}
11-MONTH CD

Open a NEW Get Real CheckingSM account and enjoy a CASH BONUS³!

bankHometown

Unlock your potential

Member FDIC | Member DIF

Specials available at any bankHometown office for a limited time and may be withdrawn without notice.

¹7-MONTH CD

5.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) - Promotional offer is available to new or existing checking account customers only. For new customers, both accounts, checking and CD, must be opened at the same time to unlock the bump up rate of 5.00% APY.

4.75% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) - Promotional offer is available to new or existing customers without a checking account.

7-Month CD rates are effective as of 1/13/24. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$1,000. Automatically renews at maturity for 6 months at the then current CD rate and term.

²11-MONTH CD

5.12% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) - Promotional offer is available to new or existing checking account customers only. For new customers, both accounts, checking and CD, must be opened at the same time to unlock the bump up rate of 5.12% APY.

4.85% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) - Promotional offer is available to new or existing customers without a checking account.

11-Month CD rates are effective as of 1/13/24. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$1,000. Automatically renews at maturity for 12 months at the then current CD rate and term.

For both 7-Month and 11-Month CDs, minimum balance to obtain APY is \$0.01. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal.

Available for IRAs and business customers.

³CASH BONUS

Conditions apply.

TAKE
10%
OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT
OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 3.31.2024

HARBRO
AUTO SALES SERVICE

WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER

(508) 499-3510

harbroauto.com/service

PROM CLOSET

continued from page 1

Connecticut areas. The gowns are given in good faith, 80 percent are returned to us cleaned or we have them cleaned. We have several great volunteers but would look forward to having more volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to message on Facebook. There is a young woman who is a student at Nichols College and she is into fashion and is volunteering. I also have to mention Lisa Laconto of the Barton Center who is simply amazing!”

Recently, the Prom Closet relocated to The Clara Barton Center, 60 Clara Barton Road, North Oxford. The Center had reached out to the Prom Closet when they announced they were closing and were about to donate their inventory to another location. The Center felt that the Prom Closet was a good cause and they have been



Michelle Aronson and Deb Mercure

very accommodating according to Aronson. “The Center is amazing,” she said, “We are very much like a boutique now. We have a large boutique mirror as well as a pedestal viewing mirror, beautiful rolling display racks for our hundreds of gowns, and the atmosphere is just wonderful. A beautiful cathedral ceiling, plenty of room, a fireplace,



wood floors, ceiling fans, and great lighting. Our atmosphere is very calm, private, and comfortable.”

The Sweet Lou Flower Shop of

Charlton has donated two floral wrist corsages for two lucky prom attendees and there is a box set up for the drawing. “Alex Diaz Salisbury, the owner, is super-creative,” said Aronson. “He named his shop after his mother-in-law. All girls who visit the Prom Closet are eligible for entering their name for the beautiful wrist corsages. Of course, we do accept donations and were recently able to buy rolling racks for all the dresses. A total of \$1,000 was given by the Southbridge Lions Club and AI’s Pest Control of Southbridge for which we are very grateful.”

As Aronson was quick to mention, so many of us are used to picking by price tag but now with the beautiful array of gowns at their location that practice is unnecessary, you can select just about whatever catches your eye. The students are advised that this

is a “borrow boutique” and that the dresses must be returned. They cater to students of all income levels. Many of them are grateful to save their money for future educational purposes.

Aronson and Mercure have used their connections to reach out to other schools telling them about their venture. They are on Facebook and Instagram “The Prom Closet at the Barton Center.” Potential prom customers must visit the two social media sites to make an appointment where they can pick a time and set up an appointment to visit and try on gowns and/or accessories. Busy season begins at the end of February and goes through mid-April with June being the month for gown returns.

The Prom Closet, 60 Clara Barton Road, North Oxford MA. By appointment only. Visit them on Facebook or Instagram.

BRING YOUR REMODELING DREAM TO LIFE!

If you can envision it, then we can build it.



HOME IMPROVEMENT

NEW CONSTRUCTION

KITCHEN & BATH REMODELING

PAINTING & CARPENTRY



IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Commercial / Residential

Remodels • Home Improvement • Additions • Painting

FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES

www.alltimesconstruction.com

508-231-7703





CERAMIC CLEARCOAT PROTECTION INCLUDED IN ALL WASHES

SUPER WASH \$14

BIG KAHUNA \$20

BASIC WASH \$11

DELUXE WASH \$17

89 Southbridge St.
Auburn, MA
(across from Sword St.)



Vacuums always 75¢



The Yankee Xpress

Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to nearly 65,000 homes and businesses each month and available on news stands in the region.

2nd Friday: The YankeeXpress South: Charlton, Dudley, Webster
2nd Friday: Blackstone Valley South: Douglas, Northbridge & Uxbridge
4th Friday: The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford
4th Friday: Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton

Contact us:

Patty Roy, Editor: proy@theyankeeexpress.com
 Submit business news and community events to news@theyankeeexpress.com
 To request advertising info, please email ads@theyankeeexpress.com
 Jen Schofield, Advertising Director: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local Town Pages, Free Press; jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net
 Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com
 Diane Galipeau, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster); dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.com
 Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: sue@sodellconsult.com
 Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager
 Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist
 Contributing Writers and Columnists: Tom D'Agostino, Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclair, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Janet Stoica, Christopher Tremblay

The Yankee Xpress/©2024
 74 Main St., Medway, MA 02053 • 508-943-8784 • www.theyankeeexpress.com

AUBURN

continued from page 1

mine the best utilization of these funds for public education, awareness, treatment, and prevention relating to opioid abuse and addiction. Town administration will be requesting warrant articles to be voted on at the May town meeting for the settlement fund expenditures," Mr. Kazanovicz stated.

Additionally, the town has issued a public press release regarding the status of 20 migrant families who were placed by the state in a local hotel. As of February 22, there are 95 rooms reserved by the state at a local hotel and 70 are currently in use. The total number of students that have been integrated into the Auburn public school system, according to School Superintendent Beth Chamberland, is 38. The state provided a one-time \$1,000 per student funding for the first 22 students enrolled in September 2023. Auburn Family and Youth Services ("AYFS") continues to supply food, snacks, and clothing on a weekly and as needed basis. The Town did incur costs for translation and transport services, however, regional partners were able to cover these costs. For those who would like to provide assistance and/or addi-

tional support to the families, the AYFS will be accepting monetary as well as other donations to support the individuals and families (food, clothing, diapers, personal care items, gift cards). Checks can be made out to the "Auburn Youth & Family Services" and should note "Migrant/Homeless Shelter" in the memo section and can be sent to or dropped off at 21 Pleasant Court, Auburn MA 01501. To donate online on the town website, please follow the link to the AYFS website.

The new Auburn Fire Station is to be located at the former Chuck's Steak House property on Route 20 Westbound. Town meeting voters approved the \$4 million funding request at the January 30 meeting by a vote of 82 yes and 6 no.

Eastland Partners' 40B housing development is a three-phased project located off Albert Street in town. Known as The Reserves at Ashworth Hill the project began in July 2023 and the buildings have risen quickly. All 324 units will be counted towards the town's Subsidized Housing Inventory ("SHI"). Of the total units planned 75% will be market rate. The unit mix includes 122 one-bedroom with 91 at market rate; 170 two-bedroom with 127 at market rate; and 32 three bedroom with 24 at market rate.

Auburn Senior Center

MONDAYS:

- 10 a.m. Walking: Auburn Mall
- 10 a.m. Knit & Stitch
- 10 a.m. Senior Sweat
- 10:30 a.m. Blood pressure clinic
- 10:30 a.m. Coloring Class
- 11 a.m. Yoga
- 12:45 p.m. Canasta and Movie

TUESDAYS:

- 10 a.m. Chair Dance
- 1 p.m. Gentle Flow Yoga
- 1 p.m. Let's Move Together

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9:30 Knit & Stitch
- 10 a.m. Walking: The Auburn Mall
- 10 a.m. Strength & Balance
- 11 a.m. Drop-in Tech
- 1 p.m. Pitch
- 1:30 p.m. Sign Language Class
- 6 p.m. Cribbage

THURSDAYS:

- 10 a.m. Chair Dance
- 12:45 p.m. Bingo
- 1 p.m. iPad

FRIDAYS:

- 10 a.m. Strength & Balance
- 11 a.m. Meditation
- 12 p.m. Quilting

- 12:45 p.m. Bridge
- 12:45 p.m. Dominos
- 6:30 p.m. Pitch

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Monday, April 3 – Senator Moore Office hour, 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 8 – Caregiver Support, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 9 – Medication Safety, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 10 – Greendale Friends Music, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 15 – Closed for Patriots Day
- Tuesday, April 16 – Auburn Police drones

- presentation, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, April 18 – Talking books presentation, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 22 – Veterans Coffee Hour, 9 a.m.
- Monday, April 22 – Comedy Show, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 23 – Worcester County Sheriff Community Outreach, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25 – Lymphatic System
- Monday, April 29 – Auburn Police Dept. Spaghetti Lunch
- Tuesday, April 30 – Floral Arranging Class, 1 p.m.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election is Friday, May 5, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Voter registration may be done by mail with a mail-in form, in person at the Town Clerk's office during office hours any time a voter moves into a new town or [online](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/). [sec.state.ma.us/](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/)

divisions/elections/download/voter-registration-forms/voter-registration_English.pdf Voters must be registered to vote 10 days before each election in order to be eligible to vote in that election. On the 10th day before each election a voter registration is held by the Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk's office. <https://oxfordma.us/DocumentCenter/View/797/Absentee-Ballot-Application-English-PDF>

[us/DocumentCenter/View/797/Absentee-Ballot-Application-English-PDF](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/797/Absentee-Ballot-Application-English-PDF)

Help Our Birds Survive Winter!



WE CARRY

- BIRD SEED
- BIRD BATHS
- FEEDERS
- HOUSES
- BOOKS/FIELD GUIDES/A.V.
- CLOTHING & APPAREL
- GAMES/TOYS/PUZZLES
- HOME & GARDEN
- OPTICS
- PEOPLE PRODUCTS
- SQUIRREL STUFF
- MASON & LEAFCUTTER
- BEE SUPPLIES

The Bird Store
and more...

4 Cedar Street,
Sturbridge, MA
508-347-BIRD
www.TheBirdStoreandMore.com



THE YARD

MULCH • WOOD CHIPS • COMPOST
SAND • STONE • LOAM

605 Quaker Highway (Rt. 146A),
Uxbridge, MA
508.278.2628

P.O. Box 77
Uxbridge, MA 01569



Ladies & Gents
HAIR HOUSE

Walk-ins Welcome!

Tuesdays... \$9 Haircuts

895 Southbridge St., Rt. 20, Auburn
Located in the rear of Dunkin Donuts
774-420-6156
Candice Lavoie, Owner/Master Stylist



HANK'S LIQUORS

We carry all the Wine, Beer and Spirits for your celebration of spring!

- Fine Wine • Craft Beer • Lottery
- Bottle Redemption • In-Store Specials
- Excellent Selection
- Convenient Store Shopping
- Discount Store Pricing
- Fine Cigars • 99¢ Nips

94 East Main St., Webster, MA

Hours: Mon-Sat 8am - 11pm • Sun 10 am - 10 pm

BEER IS NOW COOLED BY SOLAR POWER!

Print & Deliver

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

For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact Diane Galipeau at 774-364-0296 or by email at dgalipeau@yankeexpress.com

PROM PREP

BOOK A SPRAY TAN PARTY FOR YOU & 5 FRIENDS!

\$200- INCLUDES 5 FULL BODY SPRAY TANS

\$225- INCLUDES 5 FULL BODY SPRAY TANS, FRUIT PLATTER & CARRIBEAN MOCKTAIL

HOST GETS TANNED FOR FREE!

CALL THE SALON FOR MORE INFORMATION 508-671-0069

Prestige SALON & DAY SPA
118 MAIN ST., WEBSTER, MA • WWW.PRESTIGESALON508.COM

Mexicali CANTINA GRILL

50% off

Buy any meal, get 50% off the 2nd meal of equal or lesser value with beverages purchased. Dine in only. 1 per table/party. Not combinable with other offers or specials. Offer expires 4-30-24

Online orders with pickup or delivery

Dine-in and Take-out Always Available

41 Worcester Road, Webster, MA
508-461-5070
Facebook.com/MexicallisFreshMex

Career Day at Chaffee



Oxford Officer Justina LaPierre visited the Chaffee School earlier this month for Career Day. Here she is with Carter and Samantha.

Oxford Town-Wide Spring Yard Sale

It's time to start cleaning out those attics, sheds, closets, basements, garages, and storage units.

The Oxford Community Center presents the Town-Wide Yard Sale

from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Rental space is available on the Common for \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. If you're selling from your home, you must obtain a

free yard sale sign form the Select Board's office. To have your address listed on the OCC map, register at https://oxfordma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30109

Auburn Recreation

2024 BOYS' AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL SUMMER LEAGUE
We are super excited to start our Town of Auburn Basketball Indoor Summer League at the Dr. Arthur

M. Pappas Gymnasium at the Auburn High School on the week of June 24th, 2024.
GAMES
There will be two 20 minute halves, and the last two minutes

of each half will stop time. Two certified refs per game, one person to do the clock and book. Players must have numbers on the back of their jerseys also.

REQUIREMENTS
An \$800 payment must be received prior to playing. Each coach and all players must fill out a waiver. If the player is under 18 their parent must sign it. Waivers for coaches are part of the checkout process. Waivers for players can be downloaded during checkout, or on our website. A CORI and SORI must be filled out by the coach/es of each team. These can be downloaded as part of the checkout process.

Player waivers, CORI and SORI forms must be returned to:

Kristen Pappas
4 Goddard Drive
Auburn, MA 01501
REGISTRATION

Online registration is available through our recreation portal catalog: <https://secure.rec1.com/MA/auburn-ma/catalog>

QUESTIONS
Please contact Kristen Pappas with any questions by Email or Phone 508-832-7736.

Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Gifts

Souvenirs
Sweatshirts & Tees
Postcards
Hats • Jackets
Tervis Tumblers
Etched Glassware

"Images of America, Webster" book
508-943-4900 • 154 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA
shop online at www.websterlakegifts.com

UNITRANS TRANSPORTATION

POOL WATER DELIVERY

508-278-9946

EMILE 401-692-0780
SCOTT 401-692-0781

Art in the Yard 2024

Creators of medium to large scale sculptures are invited to apply to have their work displayed on the lawn of the Oxford Public Library. The deadline to apply is April 8.

Art in the Yard is presented by Gloria D. Hall, Ideator and

encouraged to visit the site prior to submitting proposals.

Selection will be based on quality, visual design, and experience of place in relationship to the architectural and social surrounding and landscape. Artists are encouraged to submit work with strong

to reject installation if any work deviates significantly from the accepted proposals or pose safety risk.

INSURANCE AND SECURITY: Artists should be aware that the site does not have twenty-four hour surveillance and neither the property-owner nor the call administrator Gloria D. Hall can be held responsible for damages. Artists should have their own liability and property insurance.

ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS:

Artist or artist collaboration may submit proposals for site-specific sculptures or high-resolution images of up to two sculptures. Applicants must use the application form below for submission(s) and include high-resolution images of prior work.

Date of work: Preference will be given to work produced by the artist or collaboration within the past five years.

Ownership: All work must be the property of the artist.

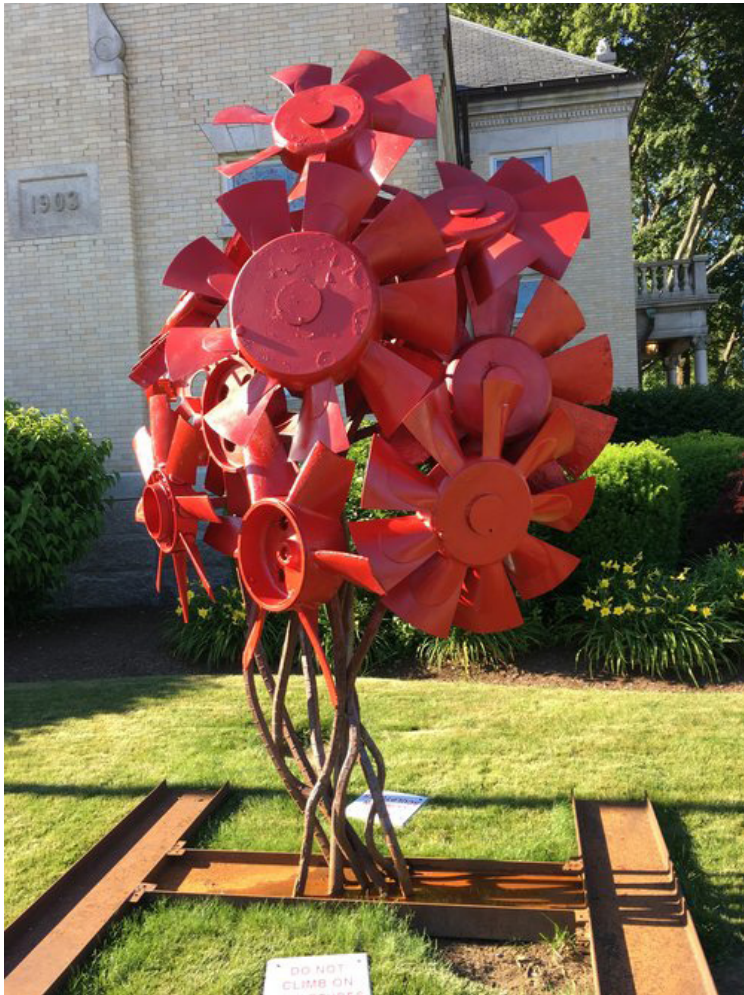
Size: Sculptures should be large scale and have the ability to be well anchored in a tree, into the ground, on the ground with a base platform provided by artist.

Lifting equipment: will be available at specific times to assist with unloading and setting up sculpture. Notice of equipment need is to be provided in the agreement to display.

Media: All media should be safe for the viewer, suitable for outdoor installation and appropriate for extended outdoor exhibition and exposure to weather.

No substitutions: Sculptures accepted cannot be substituted with other work without first contacting the project coordinator, Gloria D. Hall.

Safety: Sharp and pointed pieces of the sculptures should be avoided below 4 feet to prevent injury to viewers.



A turtle and a bright shock of flowers make arresting exhibits at a past Art in the Yard. Submitted photos

Co-Founder of Art in the Park, Worcester, in conjunction with the Oxford Free Public Librarian Britany McDougall and the library's trustees. The exhibit is designed to enhance the library experience, bring public art to the citizens of Oxford and provide an opportunity for artists to showcase their work.

Apply at https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=13251

The cultural landscape of the site - a sand colored brick two story Queen Anne Style building, six large oak trees, and manicured lawns - sits on three quarter of an acre. The library, located at 339 Main Street, was constructed in 1902 and opened to the public in 1903. When submitting existing or site-specific sculptures please take into consideration the centrality of the library's location in the town of Oxford and the fact that the library has active and engaging children programming. Artists are

color. However, pieces will not be judged solely on the basis of color. Highly desired are sculptures with light feature(s). The Oxford Free Public librarian and trustees will select the sculptures.

The organizers reserve the right

Artists are encouraged to submit pieces with strong color or bright metal so as to stand out.

Artists are responsible for transporting, installing, and removing their work with limited volunteer assistance. Heavy-duty machinery for unloading and set up will be available on a limited scheduled basis. Once installed sculptures are to remain throughout the exhibition period.

KEY DATES:

- Entry Deadline: April 8, 2024 - Artist notified: April 24, 2024
- Installation: June 11 or 13, 2024 - Opening Day: June 15, 2024

Application Requirements

Artists may submit up to two existing and/or proposed site-specific sculptures. Highly desired a sculpture with light feature(s).

Proposal Content: A drawing

with key and scale information, description of the proposed work and the materials.

Works: Artists may submit up to 2 sculptures for consideration or 1 proposal and 1 existing sculptures. For each sculpture up to three images if desired, one being a detail of works completed in the past five years. **Proposal Content:** A drawing with key and scale information, description of the proposed work and type of material(s). A minimum of 1 and no more 3 clearly labeled digital images in JPEG format (max 3 images per piece) of original work. Follow CaFE image requirements: JPEG format only, 1200 pixels on the longest side, less than 5 MB in size. Visit the CaFE Help Page for more information on image requirements or for help resizing images.

AP Mandella Landscaping

STUMP GRINDING

Chip Removal • LOAM & SEED



Free Estimates Fully Insured **Small Backhoe Services**

Call Anthony @ 508-340-1640 • Auburn, MA



TOM BERKOWITZ
Est. 1980

TRUCKING, INC.

STUMP and CONCRETE REMOVAL ROLL OFFS or BRING TO US!!!

TRANSFER STATION AVAILABLE

• Dumpsters • Demolition • Roll-offs

PUBLIC SCALE: You bring your items - Weigh in and pay as you go!
• Concrete • Bulk Items • Dirt • Asphalt • Leaves & Grass • Brush & Stumps

279 Douglas Road • Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-234-2920

www.tomberkowitztruckinginc.com • info@berkowitztrucking.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm • Saturday 8am-12pm

SPORTS

Running to College

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Annie Maynard was looking for something to do with her friends, so around the eighth grade, they all decided track was something that they should try out. The Oxford native had always enjoyed running, so she figured, why not.

"I enjoyed running and decided to give it a shot," she said. "Going in, I thought that I'd be better at the sprints and after doing it the coaches told me that my times were good for a sprinter."

Next year as a senior, Maynard will be hoping to do cross country, but this year she will continue to focus on her main events during both the indoor and outdoor seasons of track and field for the Pirates. During the winter months, she takes part in the 55m, 55m hurdles, 300m, 200 relay and the long jump. When the weather gets warmer and they head outdoors the junior will run the 100m, take part in the 100m hurdles, the 100 relay and the long jump.

"The dashes are probably her best events, but after watching her it doesn't take long to realize her prowess on the track," Oxford Track coach Dana Peloso said. "She's the type of athlete that puts in the time during practice as well as outside of organized practices."

The junior was hoping to once again take part in a pentathlon this year but with all the sickness going around she had to forego the event.

"I have done it in the past and was hoping to do it again this year, but I had to take a step back and skip it this year," Maynard said.

"I like doing different events and the pentathlon was a good idea because there are so many things that interest me."

According to the Oxford coach, Maynard is a very humble individual and although she had never done shot put nor had the training she is throwing in the high 20's.

"Annie is a phenomenal athlete and her dedication is second to none," Peloso said. "She is diligently building her NCAA profile each and every meet hitting personal records and taking part in the pentathlon allows her to add to her resume. She is capable of doing so much more than she already has."

Originally, the Oxford Pirate found running to be fun, but prior to her sophomore campaign she started to take things more seriously, hoping to earn herself a scholarship to a college where she could run.

"There was nothing that I did that stood out for me to realize that I had a talent," she said. "I just wanted to go out and continue to run while getting better and still enjoying it."

According to Peloso, although the junior has an agenda for what she would like to do, there are many events she'll partake in for the benefit of her team.

"We're working on getting her noticed on the collegiate level and I want to do right by her, but with the team numbers she'll be doing some other events as well," the Oxford coach said. "Annie is an unselfish individual and although she has an agenda, she is willing to set it aside for the team. She can do just about anything and is willing to do just that for the team."



The junior runner has personal bests in the 55m (7.7 seconds) and the 55m hurdles (10.6 seconds) during the indoor season while during the spring she had run the 100 in 13.4 seconds and has completed the hurdles in 18.0 seconds.

Coming into this season, Maynard was hoping to get her 55-me-

ter run under 8 seconds, which she has done in each and every regular season meet. With her success during the indoor season, she was named a second team Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) All-Star.

With the spring season just around the corner, Maynard is thinking about dropping the hurdles during the outdoor season and picking up the 200 and/or 400-meter races.

"I'm okay with the hurdles, but I really do not enjoy the training and getting ready for the event. I will have to work on adding endurance to my sprinting to do the 200 and 400," she said. "My goal coming into the outdoor season is getting my 100-meter time under 13 seconds."

With still one year left at Oxford High School, where she will continue to run track she is hoping to eventually get to run track in college, but at this time is still undecided as to where, all she knows is that it won't be here.

"I've thought about doing track in college, but I'm not sure where," Maynard said. "I'd like to go to a school like Franklin Pierce (in New Hampshire). I do know that I don't want to go to school anywhere in Massachusetts. I don't enjoy it at all, I'd much rather be somewhere secluded, out in the country."

So, with an entire year and a season of running left Maynard will have to make a name for herself here in Massachusetts, if she wants to get away and go to a college in a much more rustic area.



308 LAKESIDE

**CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING
ON LAKE LASHAWAY**





**OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK 11-CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS**

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

308 MAIN STREET, EAST BROOKFIELD
774-449-8333 • 308LAKESIDE.COM

Please call
774-449-8333
for reservations,
take-out or
reservation online
308lakeside.com

2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Find us on  facebook.

Austin Furniture
Vintage Home Furnishings, Decor & More
BUY/SELL • NEW/USED

Moving Service & Delivery

75 WEBSTER STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01603

508) 795-7400

Ebike program extended

The MassBike program got its first funding through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) new Clean Transportation for All Program

This year, MassBike received a mini-grant from Mass CEC to launch an expanded Phase 2 of the e-bike program. Applications are now open to March 31.

Applications are due March 31. Priority preference will be given to income-qualified applicants. Priority will be given to those whose annual gross household income is below 80 percent of the state median income. Income levels vary by household size.

Contact for more information and application form: <https://www.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=F8Llsum52WOMuk7Y1EUFpg%3D%3D&lcfpn=false>



that is conducting a two year program to distribute approximately 100 electric bicycles and track their usage in Worcester. Now, with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, there is a plan to distribute e-bikes to low-income residents in the city.

The program has expanded to Worcester County. More eligible communities along with a new incentive option that provides a 60-75 percent rebate based income level.

Residents 18 years and older who live or work in Auburn, Millbury and Grafton are eligible to apply for the rebate program.

Templeman
TREE SERVICE, INC.
Serving the Community since 1980

Full Service Tree Removal Company
FAST FREE ESTIMATES
Expert Hand Climbing Crews
Removals • Pruning
Stump Grinding • Cabling
Fully Insured • Workman's Comp

CONTACT US TODAY!
508-366-7693 • sales@templemantree.com
templemantree.com

THOMPSON

Landscaping & Construction

- DRAINAGE • POOL FILL-INS • LAWN CARE
- LAND CLEARING • FULL LAWN INSTALLS • MULCH
- EXCAVATION • STONE & GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS • RETAINING WALLS • WALKWAYS

Millbury, MA • 508-523-7790
Ebthompson36@gmail.com • Free Estimates • Fully Insured

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

ILLUSTRATION BY ROWAN KAPLAN/MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

In 2025, Southwick's Zoo will be celebrating 60 years of family fun! Share a photo of your favorite memories at Southwick's Zoo for a chance to win a family four-pack of general admission passes for the 2024 season and make some new memories! Contest begins April 1, 2024.

By entering this contest, you are providing consent for Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing (the publishers of The Yankee Xpress/Blackstone Valley Xpress, Free Press and the newspapers of Local Town Pages) to use your photo(s) for print, digital and social media purposes, and allowing Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing to contact you via email for this promotion or upcoming promotions. Only one winner per household. Cannot be an employee or family member of Southwick's Zoo or Our Town Publishing to win.

TheYankeeXpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

Oxford Public Library Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

10:00 AM
Wonderful Ones Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for songs, fingerplays, and moving our bodies to music, scarves, and shakers! We'll read a story together and have time for free play or a simple craft.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

10:00 AM
Hooray for Pre-k Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 3.5 - 5 and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for songs, rhymes, stories, and crafts, as we explore a different theme each week. We will work on developing our fine motor and language skills together.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

10:00 AM
Terrific Tots Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children

ages 2 - 3.5 and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for songs, rhymes, stories, and crafts, as we explore a different theme each week. We will work on developing our fine motor and language skills together.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Multi-age Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 1-5 and their caregiver. Registration is required as space is limited.
Join us for songs, rhymes, and stories, as we explore a different theme each week. This will be a shortened version of our typical Storytime.

11:00 AM
Baby Besties Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 0-12 months and their caregiver. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for stories, lap bounces, rhymes, and songs with scarves and shakers! We'll have time for free play and tummy time where parents can get to know each other.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

10:00 AM
Wonderful Ones Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for songs, fingerplays, and moving our bodies to music, scarves, and shakers! We'll read a story together and have time for free play or a simple craft.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Dungeons & Dragons
Type: Teens
Location: Teen Room
Join Dungeon Master Erika for this one-off campaign!
Registration required: <https://forms.gle/qq5N2zg5qhmXGMPa7>

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

10:00 AM
Hooray for Pre-k Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 3.5 - 5 and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.

Join us for songs, rhymes, stories, and crafts, as we explore a

different theme each week. We will work on developing our fine motor and language skills together.
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM
Emu paint party!
Type: Children
Location: Downstairs Meeting Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

10:00 AM
Terrific Tots Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 2 - 3.5 and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.
Join us for songs, rhymes, stories, and crafts, as we explore a different theme each week. We will work on developing our fine motor and language skills together.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Multi-age Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 1-5 and their caregiver. Registration is required as space is limited.
Join us for songs, rhymes, and stories, as we explore a different theme each week. This will be a shortened version of our typical

Storytime.
11:00 AM
Baby Besties Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 0-12 months and their caregiver. Registration is required as space is limited.
Join us for stories, lap bounces, rhymes, and songs with scarves and shakers! We'll have time for free play and tummy time where parents can get to know each other.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

10:00 AM
Wonderful Ones Storytime
Type: Children
Location: Storytime Room
This program is for children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers. Registration is required as space is limited.
Join us for songs, fingerplays, and moving our bodies to music, scarves, and shakers! We'll read a story together and have time for free play, sensory play, or a simple craft.
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM
Senior Book Group - BETTY WHITE If You Ask Me (and of course you won't)
Type: Adults
Location: Oxford Senior Center

Al's

RUBBISH & CONTAINER SERVICE

77 Providence Rd., Sutton, MA 01590
Phone: (508) 865-4193
Website: www.alsrubbish.com
E-Mail: alsrubbish@gmail.com




Al's Rubbish Provides

- Dumpster Rental Services 10 Days
- All Rentals Include Drop Off and Pick Up
- No Hidden Fees
- Estate Clean Outs
- Furniture/Appliance
- We Recycle

DUMPSTER RENTAL SPECIAL!

SUTTON, MILLBURY, AUBURN,
OXFORD, WEBSTER, WHITINSVILLE,
NORTHBRIDGE and GRAFTON

10 yard	\$350
15 yard	\$450
20 yard	\$600

10 Day rental



Serving the Blackstone Valley and
the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

FREE DROP OFF AND PICK UP!






Support Local Small Business

508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Nationwide, Local Newsrooms Have Lost 43,000 Reporters

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Local news reporting has somehow been shoved under the rug. Where have all the local reporters gone? Why have they left? There is certainly room for them in the digital press. Is it because people are reading small as in whatever can be crammed onto the small screens of their hand-held devices and their eyes are tiring from the electronic lighting? No time? No energy? Just what is it that has turned so many people away from being involved in their own town as they're not aware of the local news?

It may just be all of the above. Since 2005, 43,000 local news reporters have left the ranks of local papers that have been gobbled up by printing conglomerates that are solely focused on national and international news. When these giant companies like USA Today buy your local newspaper, they are eliminating the local reporters because there isn't room for them in their pages or in their salary budgets. These titans have chosen to obtain their news items from the national press organizations that do not focus on what's going on in your own hometown. They are interested in profit margins to the max only. They have no interest in local stories as their advertising income is from national and international advertisers. Why would your neighbor be interested in buying consumer packaged goods, pharmaceuticals, or Walt Disney World goods? Why indeed.

When local news is not reported, local residents become disenfranchised from local events whether it's the local Little League, local entertainment activities, or being involved in their town government. Town meetings? Many towns are hard-pressed to meet quorums for their town meetings these days. Why? No one knows about them because there isn't anyone reading town news because it's not being reported! There is nothing available but for media influencers like Facebook, Instagram, etc. or even the spoon-feeding of agitating 24-hour TV news media. Where is the honesty? Where is the un-biased reporting of your local journalist? They are gone, they've bitten the dust, and they are all ancient artifacts.

In our local area, we still have the Stonebridge Press with its local reporting of Auburn, Dudley, Charlton, Oxford, and Webster news. We also have the monthly Yankee Xpress. But these are weekly and monthly newspapers, not dailies. There once was the Worcester Telegram & Gazette

which currently and barely has a local news story unless it's a sensational item. Most of their stories are from USA Today staffers or international press services. Local sports? Forget it. Those reports are usually 48 hours old. The reporting of the local teams is still very well written however. You would be hard-pressed to see any reporting of town meetings, select boards, town councils, or fiscal budgets for any of the five towns listed above. Residents have absolutely no idea what is happening in their town. Budgets are passed at town meetings with low attendance by residents. So, if you're unhappy with a line budget item that was passed at town meeting, you have nothing to complain about if you did not attend. But, then again, how would you know when the meeting was held if there is not a whit of information published in the paper.

Steady rivers of bad economic news, false statements by politicians that have never been fact-checked, sensationalism of anything has given the public a bad taste for journalism. It's become a cesspool of erroneous and false data that never seems to end. Like the old story about gossip that has now become the norm. One person tells another and that person tells another and by the time the story has passed into the ears of listener number 10, the subject has become grossly distorted and sensationalized.

According to George Will of The Washington Post, since 2005 nearly 2,900 newspapers have closed and an average of 5 papers have disappeared every 2 weeks. More than half of the nation's counties (1,766 of 3,143) have become "news deserts" having either no local news source or just one, typically a weekly newspaper. A large majority of the 6,000 remaining newspapers are weeklies.

Will further states that the collapse of trust in journalists is less

severe regarding local news sources which might have something to do with the absence of political slant to local box scores or that local traffic light installation.

Local papers are your only remaining source of unbiased and true local news. You should make it a point to acquaint yourself with them and to start a habit of introducing younger family members to their local surroundings. Let's go!

As the Post's motto states "Democracy Dies in Darkness."

IN-STORE JEWELRY REPAIR • ENGAGEMENT RINGS
CUSTOM JEWELRY DESIGN
GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

LuLu's

GEMS • JEWELRY • CRYSTALS • GIFTS

1223 PROVIDENCE ROAD • WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

@LULUSGEMSGIFTS

LULUSGEMSGIFTS.COM



Tri-Valley
HOME WITH YOU

Offering a wide variety of services and in-home supports to older adults, younger people with disabilities, caregivers and veterans, often at no cost. For information call (508) 949-6640; visit www.trivalleyinc.org; or email info@tves.org.

INCOME TAXES

Personal & Business



WILLIAM N. KRING

Certified Public Accountant / Admitted to U.S. Tax Court

103 W. Main Street, Dudley • **508-949-1439**

20% DISCOUNT FOR NEW CLIENTS

QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS

FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING
Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation •
Decking • Rail Systems • Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • and Much More!



Family Owned And Operated Since 1952

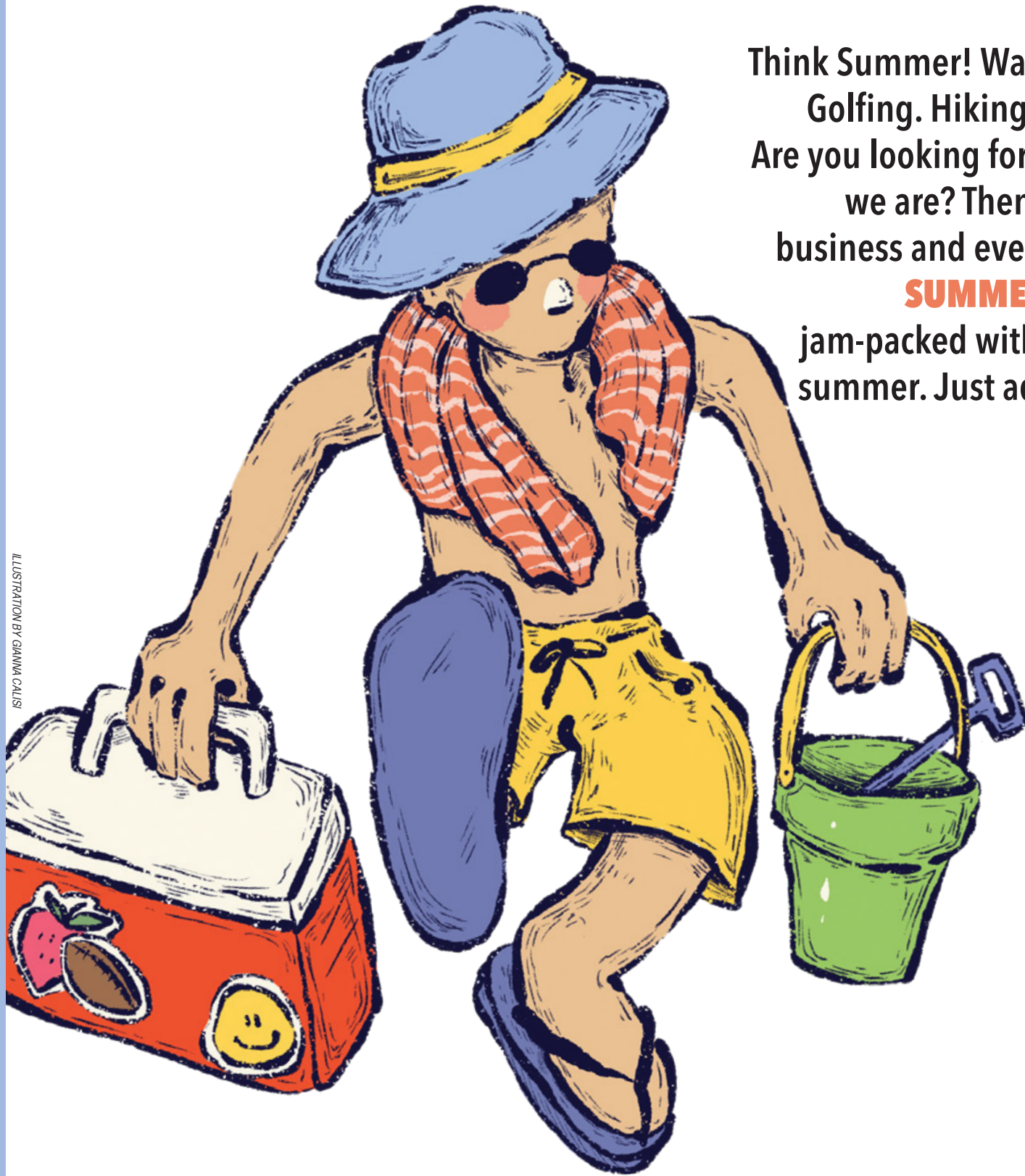
124 Main St., Millbury

cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822

Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-3pm • Sat. 7:30am-noon



SUMMER GUIDE!



Think Summer! Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to it as much as we are? Then promote your business and events with our annual **SUMMER GUIDE** – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!

Reach more than 73,000 homes and businesses this June with our Annual Summer Guide. Direct mailed to Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge and Webster!

Reservation Deadline is May 10th! Contact Diane Galipeau at 774-364-0296 or by email at dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.net to book your space today!

The Yankee Xpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

2024 Bay Path Nursing Student medalists headed to SkillsUSA State Competition

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students will compete at the State SkillsUSA Conference from April 25-27, 2024 in Marlboro, MA, after winning gold and silver medals at the district level.

Medal finishers in five categories at the district level – and earning the honor of representing Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in the state competition are:

First Aid/CPR: Patrick Njunge of Worcester, Gold Medal

Medical Math: Ashley Breault of Brookfield, Gold Medal and Richard Nsiah of Worcester, Silver Medal

Medical Terminology: Ashley Urbain of Paxton, Gold Medal

Practical Nursing: Samantha Stanikmas of Charlton, Gold Medal

Health Knowledge Bowl: Gold medalists: Victoria Boateng of Gardner, Julie Dodson of West Brookfield, Jeniffer Kilonzo of Shrewsbury, and Vanessa Gachagua of Southbridge

“We are grateful to the SkillsUSA Advisors for Bay Path, Pam Staney and Mr. Jim Primes, and also the Superintendent, Mr. Kyle Brenner for his support” said Greheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. “Our Practical Nursing students did very well and represented the Academy with pride.”

According to SkillsUSA.org, “the philosophy of the Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to



From left: Ashley Breault, Richard Nsiah, Jeniffer Kilonzo, and Patrick Njunge. Submitted photo.

keep training relevant to employers’ needs.” SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization serving more than 395,000 high school, college and middle school students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. For more information visit www.skillsusa.org

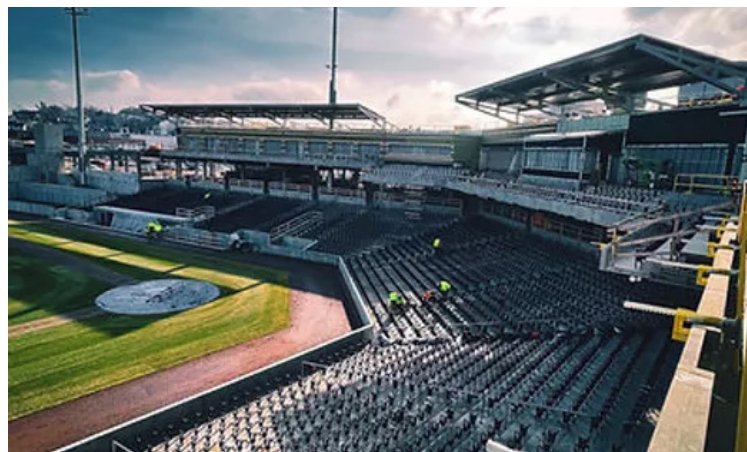
About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure

exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org

Senior Scoop Day

On Tuesday, April 23, the BV Hub will welcome over 300 students to a collaborative event uniting high school seniors from across central Massachusetts who are still considering their post-secondary options with nearby businesses eager to recruit fresh talent. The gathering will take place on the Concourse at Polar Park, where students, schools, businesses, and organizations will come together for a morning dedicated to exploring career options, networking, and conducting interviews.

Senior Scoop youth attendees will also be provided the opportunity to explore and engage in conversations and interactive activities led by some of our prominent MA business and workforce professionals. These sessions



will highlight the top 10 “most in-demand” workforce skills and emerging job opportunities. Providing participants an opportunity to not only thrive in today’s work-

force, but to help them prepare for and influence the workforce of the future. Among the towns invited are Grafton, Millbury, Sutton and Oxford.



SHREWSBURY
Marble & Granite, Inc

Biggest selection of marble, granite and quartz.

ALL MARBLE & GRANITE SLABS ON SITE

37 Years In Business

Call today for a **FREE** estimate. Over 300 Colors in Actual Slabs in Yard

620 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 9), Shrewsbury
1/4 Miles East of Home Depot. (BIG BLUE BUILDING)

508-842-9800

Mon.-Thurs. 8-5
Fri. & Sat. 9-4



Fred D. Giovaninni
HANDYMAN SERVICE

ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS • IN & OUT
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

- FREE ESTIMATES
- GENERAL CARPENTRY
- DRY WALL REPAIR
- RENOVATIONS

- ITEMS ASSEMBLED
- INTERIOR PAINTING
- ETCETERA....

MA# 155844 INSURED
CALL (508) 904-9728 DUDLEY, MA



HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life



Jim & Ralph - CT Licensed and Board Certified Hearing Instruments Specialists



Call today to schedule your Hearing Evaluation and FREE Better Hearing Test Drive.

amplisound

HEARING CARE CENTERS
800-835-2001 • PUTNAM, CT

Let us check your Medicare supplement for hearing aid coverage. We are a provider for most major insurance companies.




www.amplisound.com



We're Cheap



LEBLANC OIL LLC
508-248-1444
24 HOUR SERVICE

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Automatic Delivery
- Fuel Assistance Accepted
- Burner Service

- Licensed in House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
- Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)

We do **NOT** add biofuel to our product

5¢ OFF
PER GALLON OF OIL
OF 175 GALLONS OR MORE

Must present coupon. Offer cannot be combined.

DELIVERY AREAS

MASSACHUSETTS: Auburn, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Cherry Valley, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fiskdale, Holland, Leicester, North Brookfield, North Oxford, Millbury, Oxford, Rochdale, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton & Webster.

CONNECTICUT: N. Grosvenordale, Quinebaug, Thompson & Woodstock.

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm Saturday 9:30am-2pm

OFFICE LOCATION: 34 NEWMAN AVE., SOUTHBRIDGE



LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Luke's Birthday Gash

BY AMY LECLAIRE

Luke's two-year-old birthday was as interesting as he is. January 31, the last day of the month, came with a memorable twist. I woke up with inspiration for my pup's party. The Golden girls of the 'hood had been invited. Party hats sat on the kitchen table. Pup cakes chilled in the fridge. The only problem was – the birthday boy had a peculiar itch.

"What's the matter, Luke?" He used his back leg to scratch the fur below his chin, on the right side of his neck. Something in the location of that itch had me concerned.

"Oh my gosh!" A closer look at his neck revealed a gash about three inches long, one that felt braided and raised, almost as though a small twig was attached to his skin. My mind raced through suspects. Had yesterday's rough-housing with Rosie caused the bruise? Not likely, I thought to myself. The gash was too deep for a dog's nails. Besides, it was already closed and dry. How had I missed this? The gash was wild, undomes-

tic. Wild. The word floated through my mind, and that's when the culprit emerged.

"Jim!" Luke followed me to the bottom of the stairs to help investigate the conflict that was his wild birthday gash. "I think that possum in our yard scratched Luke!" Luke's Daddy trotted down the stairs with bedhead. "Are you ready to play, Daddy?" My heart sank to Luke's innocence. His exuberance can be problematic, yet his intentions are so good. Here's the story.

Luke had recently managed a remarkably long staring contest with a possum who sat stunned at our front steps one night. "Leave him, Luke." My son swiftly guided him back indoors. The full story now crystalized in my mind. That very possum stared at Luke with small beady eyes and a triangular face. "You have a big head." Luke stared back. "You're ugly." His face creased with desire. "Let's wrestle and call it a day." The plot thickened.

Days turned into weeks. We thought the possum had found a new home to visit, perhaps one without a beast four times his size. Well, apparently, that possum had the brain of a bird. He returned. Jim looked out the kitchen window. The fur on Luke's back was raised. He was obsessed with something and non-compliant. "Luke! Come!" Something wild settled in the air. Luke rarely ignored us. A visit to the backyard confirmed suspicion. The possum lay dead beside our deck. "Let's go in the house, Luke!" A guilty dog was led inside. Meanwhile, Daddy grabbed the shovel to finish Luke's dirty work. Little did he know of the shocker to come. The possum was gone! He had played possum! Of course he



Above, handsome birthday boy at 2 years old on Jan. 31, 2024, Luke is ready to celebrate. Below, Luke and Mandy await birthday pupcakes!



Luke's vet appointment on his birthday



LUKE

continued on page 13

We cater to dogs and cats
Nail Trims \$15

- Boarding
- Grooming
- Daycare

WOOF & WHISKER INN

508•764•4417
www.woofandwhiskerinn.com

Now accepting new grooming & boarding clients

Book Now for Spring and Summer Vacations!

265 Dudley River Road, Southbridge, Mass.

SMALL LOAD CONCRETE, LLC OPEN YEAR ROUND

Custom Concrete - Metered Pours

CONCRETE APPLICATIONS

- Patios
- Pads for AC units, Sheds, Hot Tubs, Etc.
- Footings
- Retaining Walls
- Walkways/Sidewalks
- Curbing
- Steps

Saturday pours available

WHY SMALL LOAD CONCRETE?

- Buy ONLY what you need/metered pours
- Less Expensive than mixing it by hand
- Custom Mix / Pour on the job site
- Cost Effective • No Waste
- 1 Yard Minimum
- Winter rates in effect

Call to schedule your pour today
508-770-1200

34 Providence Road, Sutton, MA
www.smallloadconcrete.com

REAL ESTATE

It's Time to Prepare Your House for a Spring Listing

If you're thinking of selling your house this spring, now is the perfect time to start getting it ready. With the market gearing up for its busiest time of year, it'll be important to make sure your house shines bright among the competition. Here are some valuable tips



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

you can use to get your house market-ready. Declutter and organize. First impressions matter, and if your house is a mess, that can easily turn off potential buyers. Before listing, take the time to declutter and organize each room. Decluttering is about more than just tidying up – it's about creating a sense of space and openness that allows potential buyers to envision themselves living in your home. Declut-

tering and organizing your space will go a long way in appealing to potential buyers. Decluttering will help the buyers see themselves living in your home. Less clutter inside a home also helps a place appear larger and cleaner, which should attract more buyers.

Deep clean your kitchen and bathrooms. The kitchen and bathrooms are focal points for many buyers, and often influence their overall opinion of the house. Ensure these spaces dazzle by giving them a deep cleaning. Pay attention to details like scrubbing grout lines, polishing fixtures, and decluttering countertops. A sparkling kitchen and bathroom can leave a lasting positive impression on potential buyers.

Maintain your yard. Your home's exterior is the first thing potential buyers see, so it's important to make a good impression from the moment they arrive. A well-maintained yard not only enhances curb appeal, but also shows buyers the home has been well taken care of. Take the time to spruce up your yard by mowing the lawn,

trimming bushes, and clearing away any debris or dead plants. Remember, the goal is to create a welcoming environment that entices buyers to step inside and imagine themselves living there. A beautifully landscaped front yard can elevate an ordinary house into a charming home and will help your home sell faster and for more money.

Find a Listing Agent. A skilled listing agent is your partner in minimizing stress when selling your home. Lean on your agent for advice on decluttering, staging, and enhancing your home's appeal to potential buyers. Their insights into market trends and recommendations for reliable contractors and stagers are invaluable. The Marzeotti Group can help you with all of that. We will take care of professional photography including drone photos and staging advice to make it look its best, and put your home on the multiple listing service.

By decluttering, deep cleaning, and tidying up your house, you can create a welcoming environment

that resonates with buyers and increases your chances of a successful sale. Connect with The Marzeotti Group or a trusted real estate agent

for advice on what you need to do to get your house ready to sell this spring.

Mark Marzeotti
REALTOR®

Marzeotti Group
Mark.Marzeotti@LamacchiaRealty.com
(617) 519-1871
www.MarzeottiGroup.net

945 W Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606

LAER
REALTY PARTNERS™

255 Park Avenue, Suite 704
Worcester, MA 01609
774-230-3500 • 508-943-6960
sandigrzyb@aol.com

50 Years Real Estate Experience

LUKE

continued from page 12

had! Possums literally play possum. I later learned that the behavior is involuntary and triggered by fear or stress. Still, a marsupial native to America and whose name is technically spelled opossum (possums are native to Australia)* was becoming an itch that couldn't be scratched.

"That possum needs to go. Luke could have lost an eye with those claws." I muttered a mother's curse and grabbed my car keys. The story's ending emerged like a scene from a low budget thriller while I drove to the animal hospital. That possum, having felt harassed, was pushing Luke's buttons. Small yet tenacious, the possum has evolved with survival skills to match its claws. Rarely does the possum carry rabies. I turned my blaring music down and thought about this some more. Resurrected from a fake death, and unbeknownst to my family, the marsupial returned to the shrubs at the border of our back yard. Luke had been jutting his head in and out of the shrubs a few days ago. Now it all made sense. Pleasantly surprised to see that his feisty friend was alive and well, Luke couldn't resist another shot at play. One more sniff. One more poke. Until the possum, enshrouded by a shrub that became his bodyguard, lashed out at Luke's

neck with knife-sharp claws.

"I think a possum scratched Luke."

Dr. Yen wiped her glasses. "I just want to kiss you all over!" Luke slurped his vet's face, then tap danced around her.

"It could be."

"What about a rough playdate?"

"It could be."

"A sharp stick?"

"It could be."

"Watch for redness, swelling or discharge. Luke is going to be fine."

I spent a few hundred dollars on could-be's and a few shots but had the assurance I needed. Luke was going to be fine. The sting of the possum saga faded with that of the veterinarian bill. It was time to party!

The rest of the day unfolded with the fanfare of a two-year-old dog's birthday party. I lit the candle of his cupcake. He sat smiling like a dolphin; chin raised to the jubilee

of the birthday song. "Happy Birthday to Luuuuke. Happy Birthday to you!" Friends and family clapped and belted out the song as though Luke was the only dog on the planet. He knew the moment was all about him. "It's my birthday!" His eyes bloomed while I blew out the candle, tore off the wrapper, and fed him a freshly baked, all-natural pumpkin cupcake that took all of three seconds to eat. Like a child denied sugar, he wore the cupcake like a second skin, savoring the taste and licking its residue from his paws. He wore frosting on his nose and chin. Most of all, he wore what it looks like to be a dog loved.

**The opossum, in this story, was referred to as a possum for syllabic reasons, and for a smoother read.*

Write to Amy – amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Follow Luke on IG – livingwith-lukevalentino

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**

MASTER PLUMBER LIC. NO. 9216

MASTER SHEET METAL LIC. NO. 115

\$50 off ANY JOB
(one per household)

Valley Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

PLUMBING • HEATING • GAS FITTING
BIG OR SMALL, WE DO IT ALL! SENIOR DISCOUNT

RICHARD J. WUNSCHEL
(508) 234-3649

10% DISCOUNT SENIORS VETERANS HANDICAP

30 LACKEY DAM ROAD, SUTTON, MA 01590-2714

It's **Happening** in

THE **last green valley**™

Now is the Time to Experience Nature

Over 100 choices beckon you outside in the fresh air! Blossom with friends & family on guided walks, hikes, pedals, paddles, runs, events and more.

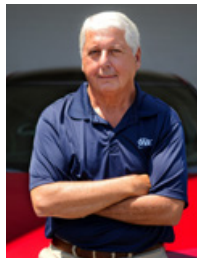
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Fusion Energi Error Message Relates to Hybrid Drivetrain

Q. I own a 2019 Fusion Energi with 56,000 miles. Recently, I will get seemingly at random, an error message that appears on my dash that says stop safely



BY JOHN PAUL

now. I had the car towed to my local Ford dealer and they had the car for several days and they said this error message never reappeared and there were no

error codes in the computer. When it does appear the car barely accelerates regardless of how much you give it gas. Sometimes just shutting it off and turning it back on corrects the error, but sometimes it just does not go away which is why I had it towed in. Luckily, it only happened while I was driving locally. I am afraid to take it on the parkway or on a long trip until this can be diagnosed and repaired. Can you shed any light on this?

A. That message is specific to the hybrid drivetrain, and it usually indicates a problem with hybrid battery cooling system. Now, of course it could be wiring or some other component issue but the only times I have seen it is when the hybrid battery temperature gets above the normal rating. As you pointed out, sometimes shutting the car off for a bit restarting it clears the issue. A scan of the car's computer modules needs to be performed to isolate the issue. In addition, and most importantly there is a recall. In Ford's words, there is a chance a fire may break out in the trunk area while driving, increasing the risk of injury. We are asking you to please avoid charging your vehicle until a remedy is available. Some Ford Fusion Energi Plug-in Hybrid models may not start or may display a "Stop Safely Now" message while driving, followed by a loss of power within a few seconds.

Q. A comment about headlight cleaning, I had the same problem on my 1999 Honda

CRV, Foggy headlights. There may be "some" dirt on the outside of the headlight cover which you can clean with a cloth. But do not waste your money or time buying those products that tell you to scrub off the fog. They do not work. In my opinion the only thing that works that brings your headlights back to full brightness is to take your car to a body shop and have the headlight cover assembly replaced. The fog is on the inside of the light, and it can't be cleaned off. I think it is caused by the sun's UV light. I replaced mine and now I am back to full bright headlights.

A. I agree to a point, the spray on easy-to-use products don't work any better than using bug spray. If lens degradation is on the inside the only thing you can do is replace them. Most headlights are made of plastic and exposure to sunlight breaks down the plastic coating, causing discoloration that obscures the amount of light produced. Depending on where and how the vehicle is used, headlights can begin showing signs of deterioration as early as three years to five years. That being said I have used kits that come with 1500, 2000, and 3000 grit sandpaper and then a polishing compound and a UV sealer and have taken headlights from badly glazed to completely transparent. It is a fair amount of work, but the result was quite good and so far on one of our own cars the lenses are clear one year later.

Q. I own a 2019 Honda CRV that I put new tires on this past November. I do a lot of winter driving in Vermont, and I wanted something better in the snow than my original tires. I went with Firestone Weathergrip tires, and they are a big improvement over what I had. However, I now find that my gas mileage has dropped by about 0.7 MPG. Could it be the tires or is something else going on here?

A. It certainly is possible the tires do not have the same rolling resistance as the original tires, which results in a little less fuel economy. Also, keep in mind the composition of winter fuel has less energy in it and seeing up to a 3 to 5% drop and fuel economy is not uncommon. The other thing you may find is, although the tires say they're the same size, they may be a bit larger which will lower the speedometer reading and odometer reading and will result in a false mile per gallon number.

Q. I know you have reviewed or mentioned a few scan tools and other testers in the past. Have you ever heard of the company Topdon. I see ads all over Facebook and YouTube.

A. I have seen the ads as well and recently was contacted by the company and in the near future will be testing out a

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 15

FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

SHOCKS & STRUTS
EXHAUST SYSTEMS
SUSPENSIONS
ENGINE REPAIR
KNOCKS & NOISES

Anything Automotive
EST 2015
The Best Service In Town

AFTER MARKET HEATING/COOLING
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC
OIL CHANGES

8 EAST MAIN ST., WEBSTER, MA • 508-736-9482 • anythingautowebster.com

Rob's Automotive
(508) 943-0009
138 West Main St.
Dudley, MA

EVERYTHING FROM DAILY DRIVERS TO CLASSICS

HOT ROD SERVICES:
Wiring, Plumbing, Tune Ups
Brake & Suspension Upgrades
Aftermarket A/C Installations
Disc Brake Conversions

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:
Oil Changes, Brakes, Suspension
Alignments, 4 Wheel Drive, Tires

robsautomotiveshop.com
repair@robsautomotiveshop.com

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as \$60 per week
Come Pick Out Your Car!

Bad Credit • No Credit
No Problem
WE FINANCE EVERYONE!
Come Check Out Our Prices!

FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.
204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022

VISA MasterCard

M&M Auto Body

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537

7 Industrial Park West,
Building 2
Oxford, MA 01540
508-987-7070

Scott Milner R.S. #3926

"Guaranteed Fast Service, No Matter How Long It Takes"

**Professional Car Cleaning
Motorcycles & Boats**
Time to WASH OFF winter
and give your car a

Over 40 years in business

DEEP CLEAN!

218 Worcester St., N. Grafton
774-272-0815
www.catacchioautodetail.com

catacchio
AUTO
DETAIL

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

When should you take Social Security?

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security — but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between

66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments. But if you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

• **Life expectancy** – For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: How long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the

question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan — you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security, so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.

• **Employment** – You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind when deciding when to begin accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you

received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

• **Spouse** – Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50% of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100% of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important — and irrevocable — decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.

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. Edward Jones Member SIPC

CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 14

Bluetooth code reader/scanner and a battery tester. Their products seem pretty impressive, time will tell, so stay tuned.

My wife and I purchased a brand-new Subaru Forester back in April of 2019. The vehicle is full of bells and whistles, sun/moon roof all-wheel drive and so forth. My wife likes the vehicle, but I do not. Here is the problem at hand. The preset buttons on the infotainment system never stay set, no matter how many times I reset them. The vehicle's battery was checked and is good. There were a few recalls on this car (matters taken care of), but nothing related to the radio. I mentioned it to the service technicians at the dealership and I wrote to the corporate office with no results. My wife said, just forget about it and dial the FM stations as needed. I said,

if it came as a package with the car and we paid for it then it should be repaired/fixed or replaced. I have searched the web and other owners of the same model have the same problem. Some have been corrected or replaced.

Earlier models had this exact problem, and it was solved with a software update. At this point I would want the dealer to check that all software is up to date. There are about a dozen bulletins about the infotainment system on this car, but at least the ones that I have access to do not address memory issues. The other issue that has been plaguing some Subaru infotainment system is the touch screen becomes delaminated and causes odd control issues with the radio. I would start with checking the power and ground to the radio and would like to see the software is up to date. If not, chances are the radio control (head unit/display) will need replacement.

John Paul is AAA Northeast's

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](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnfpaul).

"Where all of the Lords and Ladies of the Valley Are Served!"

U-KNIGHTED

AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

We are the "Give me a BRAKE... I'm EXHAUSTed Repair Shop"

45 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge
508-526-3169

FREE Brake Inspection with every Oil Change

Custom Exhaust & Brake Experts

- Engines • Transmissions • Tires • Oil Changes
- Brakes • Converters • Welding & Fabrication Services

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

Lawn Mowers & Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery • Lawnmower Repair

508-987-2775
492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540
WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

Edward Jones edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-Month	5.35% APY*
6-Month	5.35% APY*
9-Month	5.20% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-5385

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 03/14/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867M-A AECSPAD 21623956

ROY'S AUTO GLASS

COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

- Chip & Crack Repair
- Windshield Replacement
- FREE Mobile Service

MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST
Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

- Certified technicians to your location
- Foreign & domestic auto, truck, bus, motor home, windows & sunroofs
- Construction equipment, heavy duty vehicles
- Fabrication of flat glass
- Vehicles equipped with convertible or vinyl roof
- In-shop service • Free mobile service
- Saturday service
- Free pick-up and delivery within a 10 mile radius
- Quality workmanship guaranteed
- Customer safety and satisfaction is our first priority
- Servicing customers for over 25 years

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327
Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

The Carriage Inn, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The Carriage Inn, located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, was founded in 1760 as an inn and tavern stop known as Old Acres. After many changes of ownership and renovations, it became Hoof, Fin & Feathers. In 2008, the restaurant's owner brought in Ghost Hunters of Sci-Fi fame to investigate the strange goings-on inside the historic structure. There were several ghosts that allegedly called the place home. In 2014, the establishment changed hands and was renamed Carriage Inn. In 2017, Roy Ring took ownership. Though some renovations were necessary, he was adamant about keeping the building as close as possible to the original inn, when travelers visited in the 18th and 19th centuries. An upper balcony displays carriages and wagons from a long-gone era and be seen as one pulls into the inn's parking lot. Inside, the old fireplaces and other accouterments transport guests back in time to where life was simple and much slower. There is also a walled-up door that was once the main entrance to that room, showing yet another almost lost vestige of its former life. It is, at present, a cozy, family-friendly establishment boasting fine dining, an extensive menu, daily specials, and an atmosphere that is laid back and unpretentious with historic and rustic charm.

Since taking the helm, Roy and his staff have worked to make the Carriage Inn a special place



to visit for a drink, a meal, or a special event. They have also experienced a lot of paranormal phenomena that seem to have stayed on through the centuries.

An area near the entrance shows signs of a catastrophic fire that took place in 1957. The stone wall is charred black, and despite many attempts, Ring could not rid the blocks of the stain. He related a story of one of the ghosts, a little boy who is heard crying because his father was killed in the fire. Not only did people hear the phantom sobbing, but Roy took a photo of

the wall and caught a misty figure standing in front of it. The visage of a little girl with burn scars is also seen in the lower rooms near the fireplace. She may have been burned in the great fireplace that still occupies that room.

Other strange phenomena include shadows passing through the rooms, a drawer that refused to open until it was good and ready, a lock on a basement door that began swinging on its own, and female voices heard upstairs. Female bartenders have been shoved, slapped on the backside, grabbed by the shoulder and

turned around. They also had their hair pulled in front of staff and patrons. Ring said he had witnessed their hair raise and get tugged, causing the bartender's neck to jerk backward. He surmised that men did not like women tending the bar back in the day.

There is also a ghost of a woman who wanders dressed in clothing from the 18th or early 19th century. A man dressed in a black suit is also seen carrying a book. Perhaps the book was a ledger or guest book from when the place was an inn for

overnight guests. There are also rumors that the inn was once a brothel, and some of the ghosts may be from that era in the building's history. Another child also haunts the inn, pleading for someone to play with him. Cold spots that suddenly come and go and disembodied footsteps are common occurrences at the Carriage Inn. The spirits of the inn are not harmful in any way; they go about their business as they did when they were of mortal frame.

Dining With The Dead 1031 is hosting interactive paranormal investigations and dinners at the Carriage Inn throughout 2024. Guests get a wonderful buffet dinner, and the event includes door prizes and a presentation of the inn and its haunts. The guests then break into smaller separate groups, where each group, in turn, investigates the haunted areas of the inn using the equipment that is provided in each room. Guests are encouraged to use their equipment or phones to record the investigation. All evidence from video to audio is then gone over and sent to the guests via email. Visit www.diningwiththedead1031.com for more information.

Other events, including Psychic Nights and Comedy Shows, are held throughout the year. The Carriage Inn is also available for private parties and catering. 1065 Tower Hill Rd, North Kingstown, RI. 401-294-0466.

Adult Day Health Program serving your community

Family Owned and Operated offering the following:

- Secure, Safe, Clean and Homey Environment
- Air Purification System: Covid-19 Mitigation
- Nursing & Personal Care
- Medication Administration
- Recreation: Social Groups, Exercise, Current Events, Gross motor/Cognitive Games, Music, Bowling, Billiards
- Nutritional Meals
- Transportation Services (DOOR TO DOOR)

Assisting Families for 38 years



Accord
ADULT DAY CENTER

10 Cudworth Road, Webster, MA 01570
508-949-3598

www.accorddaycenter.com



PLYWOOD PLUS

The PLUS is so much more...



Kitchen Design • Kitchen Cabinets • Doors
Pine Molding • Windows • Hardware
Hardwood Floors • Custom Orders

Family Owned and Operated
#1 Merillat Dealer in Worcester County
Builder's Premium Supplier

Free Kitchen Design
Delivery Available
Personalized Customer Care



600 Park Ave., Worcester • 508.831.9900 • www.plywoodplus.com

Good Citizens Award Announced

The General Ebenezer Learned Oxford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is proud to announce the school winners of the Good

Citizens Award from the schools that the chapter sponsors.

A recognition reception was held on Saturday, March 9, for the winners. Reese Ann Reynolds is

the Oxford High School representative and she also is representing the General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter at the Massachusetts DAR District IV level. Winners at

the district level go on to the state DAR Good Citizen contest.

Bartlett High School, in Webster, is represented by Reece LeBeau. Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton, is represented by Sophia Balestracci. Courtney Wilbur represents Millbury Jr./Sr. High School, and Luke Poirier is Shepherd Hill Regional High School Good Citizen representative. Also joining the Good Citizen group was past recipient, Sylvia Buck, who received her pin 68 years ago. Congratulations to all school representatives.

The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship.

This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. These students are selected by their teachers and peers because

they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree.

This program is only open to high-school seniors whose schools are accredited by their state board of education.

Only one student per year may be honored as a school's DAR Good Citizen.

United States citizenship is not required.

Additional rules and guidelines can be acquired by contacting your local DAR chapter.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. DAR members are dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers.



From left: Sophia Balestracci, Reece LeBeau, Helen Poirier, Sylvia Buck, Courtney Wilbur, Luke Poirier, Reese Ann Reynolds. Photo submitted.

Auburn Descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots: Helen Poirier

The month of March commemorates Women's History and what better way to do this with the 250 anniversary of the Revolutionary War looming on the horizon, than to look at the women in Auburn who come from Revolutionary War patriots. Mary Deborah (Shute) Stone is one of those women. She was born in Hingham, MA in 1854 to Charles and Eliza J. (Wellman). Her mother coming from Lyman, York Maine. Her father was a private in the Civil War. Mary's siblings were Elizabeth M. who married William Darling, Abbie B., lastly, William A. who married Grace Rice June 20, 1872.

Mary went on to graduate from the Worcester Normal and Training School, in June 1872. She was qualified to teach reading, spelling, writing, drawing, grammar, geography and arithmetic, the Auburn Historical Museum has her diploma. In August 1872 she married William Stone, a farmer in town. Thus she became Mary D. Stone. Mary and William had three boys, Arthur born September 26, 1881 and married Mildred Morrison, Fredrick Nathaniel who was born October 20, 1875 and married Shirley Carr, Everett William born August 1886 and married a Boyce. Mary served

one term on the Auburn School Committee from 1895-1897.

Her Great Grandfather was Dr. Daniel Shute (1756-1829) who served with Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln as a physician or surgeon. According to the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors who served in the Revolutionary War: Shute, Daniel. Surgeon's Mate in hospital department; Continental Army pay accounts for service from July 16, 1778, to Dec. 31, 1780; also, Surgeon, (Col. Henry Jackson's (4th) regt.; commissioned April 14, 1782; also, list of officers accompanying a recommendation addressed to Gov. Hancock, dated Fair Forest, near West Point, April 20, 1782, signed by N. Rice, Major Commandant, 4th Mass. regt., asking that certain officers be commissioned to fill vacancies in said regiment; said Shute, Mate in general hospital, to be promoted to Surgeon.

Col Jackson's regiment saw action at Bunker Hill, New York Campaign, Battles of Trenton, Princeton, Saratoga, Monmouth and the Battle of Rhode Island. Dr. Shute's assignment to West Point was after the Benedict Arnold incident.

With this in her ancestry, Mary and her sisters Abbie and Eliza-

beth Darling were able to join the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and were part of the founding members of the General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter of Oxford which is still going strong today. Other Auburn members who joined in 1907 were; Mrs. Eleanor Bigelow, Miss Elizabeth Hewett, and Mrs. Evelyn E. Perry. On June 17, 1907 the first meeting of the chapter was held in Oxford at Mrs. Clara A. Fuller's home. According to a newspaper account of that meeting the battle of Bunker Hill was observed with a reading description of the battle by Mrs. Stone. The Nov. 11 meeting was held at the Stone Brook Farm home of Mary Stone on Elm St.

The Mary D. Stone School was finished in 1930 and her sons, William, Arthur, Everett and Frederick established a trust fund of \$2,000 in her name. The interest from the trust to be used to aid education at the school.

This article is provided by the Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South St. and is open free to the public on Tuesday and Saturday 9:30 - 12:30.



GARY'S PEST B'DEAD
www.PestBDead.com

Gary Brogna
Owner / Technician
MA & CT State Certified
Fully Licensed and Insured
508-248-1800
email: pestbdead@yahoo.com
108 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570
Your Local Commercial & Residential Pest Control Experts!





MARTY'S OF DUDLEY LIQUOR STORE

119 W. Main St.,
Dudley, MA
508-943-0101

**Fine Wine
Spirits
Craft Beer**

NEW SPRING HOURS
MON.-WED. 9-9
THUR.-SAT. 9-10
SUN. 10-8

**Non Alcohol
Spirits in Beer,
Wine and
Low-Cal Wines**



DOORDASH

ICE KEGS Lottery - Drive thru Redemption
CALL FOR BRAND AVAILABILITY AND PRICES 508-943-0101

Follow us on  

Justin Hayward and Christopher Cross to perform at Indian Ranch

Two of the most iconic voices in rock are coming to Indian Ranch. The voice of The Moody Blues Justin Hayward and five-time Grammy Award Winner Christopher Cross will perform at the Webster Sunday, July 7. Tickets are on sale now at www.indianranch.com. A limited number of Low Dough Early Bird General Admission tickets will be available for just \$32.50 through March 8th, while supplies last.

Having chalked up over fifty years at the peak of the music and entertainment industry, Justin Hayward voice has been heard the world over. Known principally as the vocalist, lead guitarist and composer for the Moody Blues, he is an enduring talent that has helped to define the times in which he worked. Over the years the band has sold more than fifty-five million albums and received numer-

ous awards. In 2018, along with the other members of The Moody Blues, Justin was inducted into the legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Born and brought up in Swindon in the UK early when his grandfather bequeathed him his large collection of 78 rpm recordings.

"It opened a world of imagination to me," says Hayward. Having taught himself to play the ukulele, he soon progressed to guitar and by his early teens he was playing in local groups. Upon leaving school at 17 he answered an advertisement in Melody Maker newspaper and successfully auditioned for UK Rock and Roll hero Marty Wilde.

"I got the job playing guitar for Marty – it was a dream come true for me," he said. He credits Marty with encouraging him to become a songwriter; he made several recordings with Marty's 'Wilde Three'

and also appeared with them at the London Palladium. They remain close friends to this day: "Marty is still my hero," Hayward said.

Having released a couple of solo singles, he joined the Moody Blues in the summer of 1966. Hitting his stride immediately with the single "Fly Me High," he followed it up with the classic hit songs "Nights in White Satin" and "Tuesday Afternoon" from the seminal album Days of Future Passed." The album went on to become a favorite of the NASA astronauts and was taken aboard the Atlantis shuttle spacecraft by chief astronaut "Hoot" Gibson on many missions.

Hayward created other classic, era and genre-defining hits "Question," "The Voice," "The Story in Your Eyes," "I Know You're Out There Somewhere" and "Your Wildest Dreams." These laid the foundation for the incredible success story of the Moody Blues – as well as his solo work – which continues to this day.

Christopher Cross burst onto the music scene with his 1980 self-titled debut album, winning five Grammy Awards, including—for the first time in Grammy history—the "Big Four" most prestigious awards: Record of the Year (for the single "Sailing"), Album of the Year, Song of the Year (also "Sailing"), and Best New Artist.

In a career spanning more than four decades, Cross has sold over 10 million albums. His music has garnered five Grammys, an Oscar, a Golden Globe, an Emmy nomination and five Top 10 singles.

Within a year of the first album's release, Cross joined music royalty Burt Bacharach to write "Arthur's Theme," for the movie Arthur, which won an Academy Award for Best Song. With his 1983 release, Another Page", Cross was again in the Top 10 with the singles "All Right" and "Think of Laura."

His song, "Swept Away," composed for the hit television series, Growing Pains, was nominated for an Emmy.

Cross started his own label and, since 2007, has released 8 albums of new material, including "A Christopher Cross Christmas" and "The Café Carlyle Sessions", jazz treatments of hits and favorites born out of a residency at the famous Hotel Carlyle in New York City. "Take Me as I Am" released in 2018, features richly-crafted melodies and elegant guitar work. The latest project for Christopher Cross Records is aptly titled "The Complete Works". Released in 2020, it celebrates his 40th anniversary as a recording artist and is a collection of all 12 previously-released CDs, one CD of singles and bonus tracks, and a pink vinyl containing one track from each album chosen by Christopher.

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chagogaggogmanchaggaggoggaungamaugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant



Justin Hayward

and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground.

Tickets are on sale now for Justin Hayward and Christopher Cross on Sunday, July 7. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. and show time is 1p.m.. Tickets are available online at indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster.

GRIN & GRIND
STUMP REMOVAL
(508) 618-1000
VETERAN OWNED
SEBASTIAN.M.KLAMA@GMAIL.COM

We are a veteran-owned small business providing stump grinding services to the tri-state area. We look forward to helping you get your yard back and leaving you with a smile!
*Additional tree services available upon request

Countryside
Garage Doors

430 Main St., Oxford, MA

We repair all makes and models of Garage Doors and Electric Openers
- Commercial and Residential -
Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600
www.countrysidegaragedoors.com email: countrysidegaragedoors@aol.com

Renew your home's appeal with a new garage door.
Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Visit our display by appointment

Oxford Day at WooSox

For the third straight year, the WooSox will host a number of towns and cities from across the commonwealth at Polar Park for "Town Takeover" nights. Tickets purchased for each Town Takeover game will benefit a non-profit from that town.

Oxford will be the special guest at the WooSox Town Takeover Day on Saturday, May 25. Several Oxford students will be involved in the Game Day proceedings as well. All proceeds this year will go to support the Booster Club which does a great job supporting athletics, performing arts and various clubs and activities for Oxford students. Tickets are now available through milb.com/worcester/tickets/town-takeovers

At the end of the season, the town with the largest turnout will be rewarded with a trophy and special recognition!

Economy Canvas & Awning Co.

Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products

- Full Awning Service - Installation, Removal & Cleaning
- Manufacture & Repair All Canvas Products

Pool Cover Repairs
Over 34 years of service in the community

115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA
508-765-5921

www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com



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@theyankeexpress.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

• The St. Joseph's Church in Charlton Easter Sunday Service on March 31 at 10 a.m. will live stream on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYqLQCOYpUK>.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

• "Local Area Trails & Waterways", photographs by Ray Arnold, will be on display and for sale April 2-30 in the cafe gallery at Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main Street, Webster. A meet and greet with the artist will take place on Saturday, April 6 from 12-2 p.m., free and open to the public. The show may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sunday & Monday. For more information, call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

• The New England Country Music Club will hold the following dances with live classic country bands at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge:
 Sunday, Apr. 7, "Rachel Landry"; Sunday, Apr. 21, "South County Line"; Sunday, May 5, "The Farm Hands".
 Doors open at 12:15, live music 1-5 p.m. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub
 • Vernal Pool Exploration Hike With A Ranger - Join Ranger Viola from 2- 4:00 p.m. at the West Hill Dam office, 518 E. Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge. Join us for a short hike to some resident Vernal Pools, in daylight, to observe if Big Night (mass migration of amphibians) and egg laying have occurred or is occurring. Visitors are currently finding some wood frog egg masses and possible salamander egg deposits, so come explore. Cancelled for heavy rain or snow. For more information we post updates on Facebook and Ranger Viola is happy to take your calls at 978-318-8417. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle, dress for the weather, be prepared to walk about a mile, round trip, walk through wooded areas, not trails and expect downed trees and logs etc. (walking or hiking stick will be helpful). We expect a range of ages, so under the age of 5 this is highly not recommended.

Vernal Pools, only last about a month, fish cannot live there, spring rains fill them so salamanders and other Vernal Pool species can migrate to the pool they emerged from, long enough to mate and leave their eggs. They only return in future years, eggs hatch and adults emerge before the pools dry out. No gathering of any animals will be permitted. Vernal Pools and these species are highly protected.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

• St. Peter Parish in Northbridge is having a Ham Dinner on Saturday, April 13 th starting at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Bring you family and friends for a wonderful meal and meet some new friends. Tickets are \$17 per dinner and include salad and dessert. To go meals will be available for pick up at 5:00pm and all orders must be purchased in advance. "Pay It Forward" purchase an extra dinner and we will deliver it to someone in need in our local community. Please call the parish office at 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.
 • Meet author Ann Watt, whose debut book is a nursing memoir titled, "When Being a Nurse Was Fun: Tales From My Life as a Nurse", on Saturday, April 13, 1-2:30 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. This book signing and presentation is free to attend and signed books will be available for purchase. For more information or to RSVP, call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com. Ann lived in Worcester for a few years and was employed by UMass/Memorial at the University campus. The book starts with a few stories about her nursing training and employment at UMass.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

• At 7 pm at Vaillancourt Folk Art, 9 Main Street, Manchaug Village, Sutton. Christine Watkins, Sutton Historical Society, will tell the story of the devastating 1924 Manchaug Village fire on its 100th anniversary which burned over 10 acres, left 25 percent of the Village population homeless, destroyed the retail section of the village, and made national news. This presentation will include photos, newspaper summaries, and eyewitness accounts. Come hear how a small community, with the help of generous neighbors, persevered over a tragedy.
 • Learn everything about growing "Daylilies in the Garden" at the Sutton Garden Club meeting at 7 p.m. at the A.L. Gendron Post 414, 156 Boston Post Road, Sutton. Adel Keohan will be presenter.
 • Sutton Historical Society's first speaker presentation at 7 pm at Vaillancourt Folk Art, 9 Main Street, Manchaug Village, Sutton. Christine Watkins, Sutton Historical Society, will tell the story of the devastating 1924 Manchaug Village fire on its 100th anniversary which burned over 10 acres, left 25percent of the Village population homeless, destroyed the retail section of the village, and made national news. This presentation will include photos, newspa-

per summaries, and eyewitness accounts. Come hear how a small community, with the help of generous neighbors, persevered over a tragedy.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

• Home Baked Ham & Bean Supper, April 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm in the Community House, 8 Court St, Uxbridge located behind the Uxbridge Town Common. Sponsored by the Uxbridge Congregational Church. Menu includes baked ham, home baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, brown bread, beverages & dessert. Donation of \$13.00 per adult, children under 6 free. Raffles will also be available. For reservations call 508.244.7849 Limited tickets will be sold at door. Come enjoy great food and fellowship.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

• The Millbury Nature Trails Committee will host an Arbor Day Tree Planting Event at 9 a.m. at the Brierly Conservation Area. Help plant trees and mark a new trail. Rain date is May 11. To register, visit the Nature Trails Facebook page.
 • 9th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day - Open Sky Community Services and the Blackstone River Watershed Association are excited to co-host the 9th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at Riverbend Farm in Uxbridge along with our partner organizations, the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor Volunteers-in-Parks Program, Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. This year's event will be held on Saturday May 4 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, May 5. Prizes offered in four different age groups will be awarded at 1:15 p.m. There

will be activities for the whole family, as well as food and ice cream for purchase, free face painting and raffles. All ages and ability levels are welcome. Fishing poles, bait and instruction will be available with pre-registration and participants are welcome to bring their own. This is a catch and release event for everyone from first time fishers to experienced anglers. Adults must accompany children under 12. Volunteer opportunities are available at openskys.org/fishingvolunteers. Pre-registration will open starting April 5 at thebrwa.org/familyfishing2024. This is a FREE event, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Joanne Holahan at 508-278-5200 with any questions.
 • At 7 pm at Vaillancourt Folk Art, 9 Main Street, Manchaug Village, Sutton. Christine Watkins, Sutton Historical Society, will tell the story of the devastating 1924 Manchaug Village fire on its 100th anniversary which burned over 10 acres, left 25 percent of the Village population homeless, destroyed the retail section of the village, and made national news. This presentation will include photos, newspaper summaries, and eyewitness accounts. Come hear how a small community, with the help of generous neighbors, persevered over a tragedy.
 • Sutton Historical Society's first speaker presentation at 7 pm at Vaillancourt Folk Art, 9 Main Street, Manchaug Village, Sutton. Christine Watkins, Sutton Historical Society, will tell the story of the devastating 1924 Manchaug Village fire on its 100th anniversary which burned over 10 acres, left 25percent of the Village population homeless, destroyed the retail section of the village, and made national news. This presentation will include photos, newspaper summaries, and eyewitness accounts.

Come hear how a small community, with the help of generous neighbors, persevered over a tragedy.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

• Saint Peter's Parish in Northbridge will be holding a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 3 rd , 7:30am to 3:00pm in the parish hall. If you are moving, spring cleaning or just have too much clutter, bring us your gently used items for our yard sale. You may drop-off your donations every Saturday from 10:00-1:00pm April through May, starting on Saturday, April 6th at the parish garage. We are accepting kitchen items, home goods, toys, sporting goods, books, small furniture items, clothing for donation and much more. Please see our website for a complete list of what we are accepting. You may also call or email the parish office, if you have any questions: 508-234-2156 or email: parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org.

HIKES WITH BLACKSTONE VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR HIKES

The following is a list of hikes in Massachusetts being led by volunteer Trail Ambassador Phil. Phil's hikes begin at 10 a.m.
 Saturday, March 23: Midstate Trail Hike - Part 1, Douglas
 Saturday, April 6: Midstate Trail Hike - Part 2, Douglas
 Saturday, April 20: Castle Hill Farm Hike, Whitinsville
 Saturday, May 4: Mendon Town Forest Hike, Mendon
 Saturday, May 18: Wallis Pond Loop Hike, Douglas
 Saturday, June 15: Douglas State Forest Hike, Douglas

TIME TRAVEL. MADE POSSIBLE.
SEE DECADES OF HISTORY.
WEDS - SUN
MUSEUM OPEN
10 AM - 5 PM

568 MAIN ST • HUDSON, MA • 978-562-9182
 AmericanHeritageMuseum.org

American Heritage Museum

THERE'S A SMARTER WAY TO HEAT ANY ROOM THIS WINTER.





MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
COOLING & HEATING

Heat the rooms you live in... without wasting energy on the rooms you don't.

- ◆ Uses 25-50% less energy to heat your home.
- ◆ Employs allergen filtration to reduce germs, bacteria and viruses.
- ◆ Provides year-round comfort that keeps you cool in the summer too.
- ◆ Requires no ductwork, so installation is quick and easy.

AMERICA'S #1 SELLING BRAND OF DUCTLESS

Contact us today for a no cost in-home assessment!



Morrisette & Son
Electrical Contractors, INC.
ELECTRICAL • HVAC • GENERATORS
508-476-9879
MorrisetteElectrical.com

©2015 Mitsubishi Electric

Choose Morrisette & Son as your installer, and receive:

- Upgraded Diamond Dealer Parts & Compressor Warranty to 12 years (from standard 5 years parts/7 years on compressor)
- Finance through MassSave with 0% HeatLoan
- Rebates through MassSave & MassCEC (MassCEC rebates expire 3/20/19)
- Extended Labor Warranty Available
- Highly Trained Technicians with Installation & Service


Looking to replace your electric heat? Ask us about HUGE rebate opportunities through MassSave!

FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs





ALL NEW INSTALLS COME WITH A 3 YEAR PARTS AND LABOR WARRANTY, AS WELL AS THE MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY.

We do **NOT** Sell Biofuel!

Which will help prevent system breakdowns.

HELP WANTED -
Class B CDL driver with air brake, tanker and hazmat endorsements. Must have DOT Medical Card.



LMT Oil, Inc.
Keeping You Warm & Comfortable
508.434.1335

A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING



weber
GRILL SALE!

EASTER SALE!

GOING ON NOW!

Pre-season BIKE SALE!



GIANT TOY DEPT!

See our store on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) **Bill's Daily Deals!**

<p>MATTRESS SALE!</p> <p>TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)</p> <p>FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)</p> <p>FULL: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)</p> 	<p>5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$219⁹⁹ WAS \$299.99</p>	<p>FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 \$329⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>MAYTAG DISHWASHER #MDB4949SKZ \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$349.99</p>	<p>STAINLESS STEEL BOTTOM FREEZER \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1295.99</p>	<p>DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$699.95</p>
<p>TV SALE!</p> <p>50" Vizio \$259.99 (Regularly \$549.99)</p> <p>55" Samsung \$379.99 (Regularly \$449.99)</p> <p>75" Samsung \$599.99 (Regularly \$799.99)</p> <p>85" Samsung \$999.99 (Regularly \$1599.99)</p>	<p>FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR \$1099⁹⁹ WAS \$1,599.99</p>	<p>HOTPOINT WASHER OR DRYER \$449⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER \$569⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER \$1599⁹⁹ WAS \$2,699</p>	<p>10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$439⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER \$799⁹⁹ WAS \$999.95</p>
<p>INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000</p> 	<p>LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$899.99</p>	<p>AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSO5SNWW \$749⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99</p>	<p>20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1099.99</p>	<p>LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$729⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99</p>	<p>G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE \$229⁹⁹ WAS \$279.99</p>

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? NEW EASY FINANCING TERMS ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!

WHITCO

**140 MAIN STREET
SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343**

SEE [WHITCOSALES.COM](https://www.whitcosales.com) FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 10am-8pm • Sun: 12pm-7pm