



## Auburn Town Meeting to be held on May 7

Annual Elections held on May 21

BY JANET STOICA  
[jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com)

Auburn's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn High School auditorium. This is every resident's opportunity to see how their tax dollars are being spent.

The May 21 voting will be held to elect town officers and committees in the areas of Housing Authority, Library Trustees, Town Mod-

High School gym located at 99 Auburn Street, Auburn across from the I-290 entrance. There is no voting access through the main entrance to the high school. Voting hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Additionally, Wednesday, May 10, is the last day to register to vote at the Town Clerk's office. Hours are from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Auburn residents who are 18 years of age by Election Day, May 21, may register to vote in the Town Clerk's office. A resident may register to vote

## Exploring the Oxford Area

BY JANET STOICA  
[jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com)

Warmer weather makes us want to explore outdoor activities. As the sun warms our faces and hearts the search for fresh air recreation beckons us. Here are some interesting areas to explore and experience with a nod and thanks to thecrazytourist.com website.

The Buffumville Lake Park is open to the public and has a challenging 18-hole disc golf course that will get your blood flowing and your walking exercise in at a good pace. Disc golf is a sport where Frisbee flying discs are thrown at a raised target basket surrounded by chains. The object

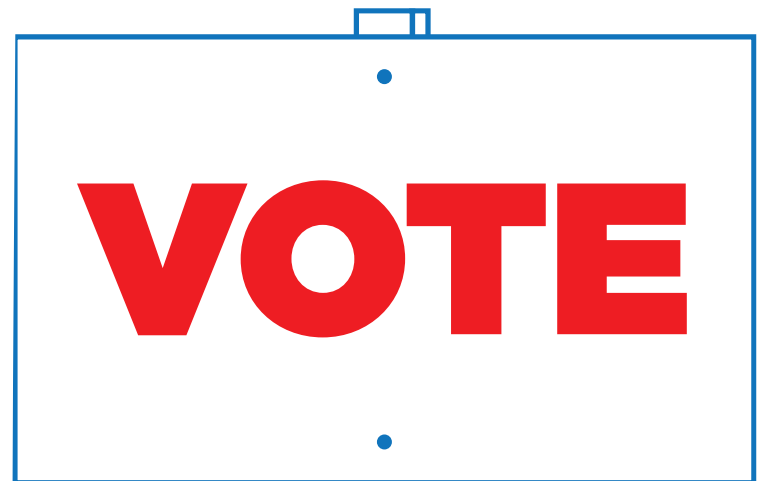
is to land your disc into the basket using the fewest amount of throws. You can also hike the 7.2 mile Lake Shore Trail breathing in the fresh air and taking in nature's beauty. There is a 300-foot sandy beach area, horseshoe pit, and picnic shelters. As the area is a flood control project maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers, it's best to check their website for hours of operation which is mainly in the warmer months.

The Midstate Trail could easily be renamed the Massachusetts Wetlands Trail according to the wordpress.com website as there is water almost everywhere and with the heavy rain we've had this spring, it may be one of the wettest trails you'll ever encounter in the

area but may be worth a try. Just make sure you carry your bug repellent as there may be a host of buggers to annoy you. Encountering true nature is always a challenge.

Hodges Village Dam has been around since the 1950's and this Army Corps of Engineers flood control project is the result of the severe 1936 flooding that occurred in Connecticut's Thames River Valley. The area has 22 miles of trails complete with beautiful forest and wetlands for a hiker to discover. There is also a 13-hole disc golf course that runs along the

**EXPLORING**  
*continued on page 2*



erator, School Committee, Selectmen, and Town Clerk. Town Meeting Members to be elected are in Precincts 1 through 5: 8 members for 3 years; Precinct 3: 1 member for 1 year; Precinct 4: 1 member for 2 years; and Precinct 5: 1 member for 1 year. All precincts vote at the Auburn

by mail, in person, or online <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>. The mail-in form must be postmarked on or before Friday, May 10, 2024 for the voter to be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Election. Tuesday, May 14, is the last day to request a Mail-In Ballot.

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**EXPLORING**

*continued from page 1*

dam.

Carbuncle Pond is a well-maintained town beach area for young and old alike with its own beach house and pine trees. In the past several years the town installed splash pads and sprinklers for the youngest members in town along with seating for parents and caregivers.

Huguenot Fort located on Fort Hill Road was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Its remnants were commemorated in the 1800's with the

establishment of a monument. The original fort was built in 1694 by Protestant immigrants fleeing from state church persecution in France. They sought to protect themselves from local Native American attacks by building the fort.

Bartlett's Bridge which crosses the French River in North Oxford is a granite stone-built bridge constructed in the late 1800's which replaced an earlier wooden structure. It was named for the owner of the local textile mill, Edwin Bartlett. Its single arch rises 13 feet above the French River.

The Clara Barton Birthplace Museum located at 66 Clara Barton Road in North Oxford is open

from the last Friday in May to the last weekend in August and by appointment. Checking their website at [www.clarabartonbirthplace.org](http://www.clarabartonbirthplace.org) will advise additional information. Clara Barton was a strong and brave lady who served as a teacher, nurse, and founder of the American Red Cross. She also participated in the suffragette movement to gain a woman's right to vote. A true hero in every sense of the word. A visit to her birthplace home where she was born on Christmas Day 1821 is one of the best encounters of enlightening knowledge you'll ever come across.

The Samuel Slater Experience is a complete and satisfying educa-

tional experience to top off your exploration of the local area. Located on Ray Street in Webster MA, the museum explores the history of Mr. Slater who is referred to as the father of the American Industrial Revolution. The museum uses dynamic and interactive exhibits to captivate its visitors as it takes

them on a trolley ride through the streets of days gone by, showing the life of mill workers, and displaying Mr. Slater's recreated office along with other artifacts of the 1700 and 1800's.



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On Monday, March 25th Bro. Charles Proctor was presented the George Washington Masonic Military Veterans Medal by DDGM RW Jonathan Neitz at Oxford Lodge AF & AM. Photo submitted.



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# The Importance of Caring

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Sometimes things happen to us and our family members that take us by surprise and make us think about telling our loved ones that we care about them more than ever. Such an event happened to me several months ago when my then 94 year old aunt, whom I watch over as necessary, was in a local emergency room and had to be taken to another hospital via Life Flight helicopter.

As I wasn't allowed on the copter, all I could do was watch as the air ambulance lifted off from its helipad to zip her to Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. There were no available beds in Boston or Worcester so Hartford was the third choice. I was informed by the two nurses who would be tending to my aunt during the flight that it would be a 15-minute trip. (By car, the road trip would be about 1 hour and 20 minutes.)

I made my 10-minute ride home from the local hospital and awaited a phone call from the Hartford ER which, of course, never came because hospital ERs are places of bedlam and short staffing these days. The lack of a phone call is in no way intended as a negative against the excellent care my aunt

received there but merely a comment about today's state of hospital staffing. After an hour of waiting, I phoned the hospital and was transferred from one department to another finally being told that because my aunt's patient information was not in their computer system yet, they were not allowed to provide me with any information and could I please phone back later.

After another few hours and another phone call, I learned she was resting comfortably and that they were taking care of her. Since ER rooms don't have phones, I wasn't able to speak with her directly but the nurse assigned to her told me that she would contact me at the end of her 12-hour shift and I would then be able to chat. True to her word, about 8 p.m. this truly outstanding caregiver did, indeed, phone me on her personal cellphone which she handed to my aunt so we could have a few words with each other. She was doing well and I wished her a good night and told her I loved her.

My aunt is a petite woman about five feet tall and sharp as a tack.

The last time she sat on a plane was decades ago where she had such a bad experience that she vowed never to board a plane again. Apparently, all those years ago, her plane had hit an air pocket and then dropped suddenly causing her

should've been a comedian as he bantered with her to put her at ease while the second nurse explained that he was about to dose her with a sedative to make her relaxed during the flight.

Surprisingly, my aunt did not fight them about taking an air ride as she knew the gravity of her medical condition. After they wrapped her like a burrito and transferred her to the helicopter gurney, they whisked her down the hall and out the doors to the helipad where the copter was waiting. All of this was done so very quickly after signing this form and that form and obtaining verbal approvals, etc.

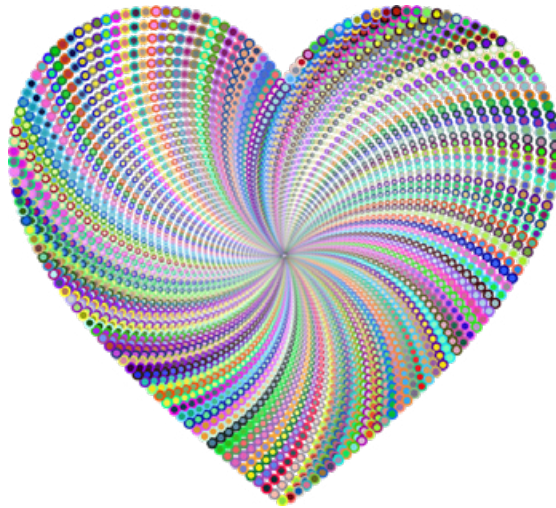
After I returned home to await the aforementioned Hartford Hospital phone call, I began to decompress a bit. It was then that I began to think horrible things like What if she doesn't make it? What if the blood transfusions don't work? Why didn't I tell her 10 more times that I loved her and that I'd be there at the hospital as soon as possible and please, auntie, don't worry about anything.

It made me think about other family members who passed away

quickly and I never had the chance to tell them about my feelings for them. Instead of writing eulogies I should be telling my entire family and friends how I really feel about them when they are living. But I know that 99 percent of us never really get the chance or the opportunity never really presents itself or we just don't get in the groove to do such a thing.

Well, five days later, my aunt was happily discharged from the hospital and it just so happened to be her 95th birthday. A few days later, I took her out for a special dinner at a special restaurant and was able to express to her how important and extraordinary she truly is. I told her how her words of wisdom mean so much to me when asking her opinion. I told her how much she meant to me and how much I loved her. Tears came to her eyes which, of course, affected me as well. We hugged.

I guess what I'm trying to write is, don't wait until it's too late. Tell your loved ones how much they mean to you right now while they are still in your life. It's a miracle that my aunt has lived to the age she has. We just never know how short or long our lives will be but telling someone you love them now is the finest gesture you could ever make.



to be this close to losing her lunch. She swore off all air travel following this harrowing experience. The two Life Flight nurses were outstanding however. They swooped (no pun intended) into her local ER room and began reviewing her medical condition with the ER staff right then and there while my aunt and I listened to every word. The first nurse was an easygoing gent who

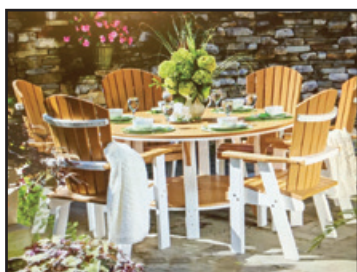
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# Book Presentation

Author Carol Bernardone will give a presentation for her new book *Growing HOPE: The Therapeutic Benefits of Gardening* on Saturday, May 4th at 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster, MA.

This is a free event and autographed books will be available for purchase. To RSVP, please call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com

Gardening is fundamental to providing healthy air, nutritious food, and beauty for the

world. But even beyond this, the art of gardening provides many therapeutic benefits for children. You don't have to be an expert gardener to let your green thumb flourish and share all that can be learned in the world of horticulture. Whether you are a teacher, therapist, or parent of young children, you might be on the constant prowl for new activities that help create a safe space where kids can grow. If that's the case, look no further than *Growing Hope: The Therapeutic Benefits of Gardening*.

Gardening refers to any form of connecting with green life through plants and nature. This is a powerful, inclusive, and adaptable activity for all ages! Inside this guide, you will discover:

- \* The many benefits of gardening with real-life examples of

how gardening can shape minds, overcome challenges, and transform life for the better.

- \* Important steps to take for beginner gardeners with inspiration on how to incorporate gardening in educational and therapy settings.

- \* How gardening has transformed many different lives and provided healing methods through various case studies.

- \* Powerful tips to make gardening more collaborative with suggestions for creating partnerships through plants and nature.

- \* Realistic methods to help introduce gardening in the classroom, during therapy, or at home to empower all ages and improve valuable life skills!

Beyond this, you will find practical advice and valuable insights from the mind of Carol Bernardone, a school-based occupational therapist assistant

in special education with over 25 years of experience. Anyone can benefit from the practice of connecting with nature. If you are ready to discover the ins and outs of using gardening for therapeutic benefits, add this book to your collection of learning tools.

**About the author:** Carol Bernardone has worked as a school-based Occupational Therapist Assistant in Special Education for the past 26 years with a wide variety of students over the years from pre-school age through high school. She is a Mom of 5 children, 3 grandchildren and also ran a licensed Daycare for several years when her children were younger. She believes in maximizing each student's success by using high interest topics and activities to motivate them to participate in therapy.

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## Oxford Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2. The polls are open from 8

a.m. – 8 p.m. Polling locations are as follows:

Precinct 1 and Precinct 4 are both located at the Chaffee School, 9 Clover Street, in the gym. Voters should park in the Locust Street parking area and must enter through the doors on Locust Street, not the front doors.

Precinct 2, Precinct 3 and Sub-Precinct 4A are located at the Middle School, 497 Main Street, in the gym. Voters should park on the northerly side of the building and enter through the doors near the gym, not the front doors.

Seats up for election:  
 Board of Selectmen: one seat for three years  
 Board of Library Trustees: one seat for three years  
 School Committee: one seat for two years  
 School Committee: two seats for three years  
 So. Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee: one seat for three years  
 Housing Authority: one seat for five years

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# Oxford High School Honor Roll

Oxford High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

**High Honors Seniors:** Kenzie Bylund, Kaila Donahue, Hannah Harris, Jessica Parent, Alexa Sherwin

**Juniors:** Muniba Awais, Nicole Brzozowska, Hailey Filipkowski, Emma Martin, Aidan Vanarsdalen

**Sophomores:** Justine Anderson, Hailey Angell, Zack Bond, Cassidy Burke, Delaney Burke, Michaella Dwyer, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Matthew Hilman, Abigail Kimball,

Rosy Krantz, Addisen Monsen, Samuel Paradise, Noah Proctor, Nolan Remington, Ava Vincent, Vanessa Walker, Ethan White, Abigail Worster

**Freshman:** Shayla Boliver, Makalieggh Boyle- Muniz, Marie Cosentino, Abigail Davis, Emily Dupuis, Kate Mayo

**Honors Seniors:** Spencer Byrnes, Matthew Conway, Lillian Cybula, Andrew Demicco, Alexandra Dwinell, Theresa Friend, Angelica Kopec, Daniel Kudron, Angel Maldonado, Cheyanne Matthews, Gavin Nawrocki, Anais Ortiz, Reese

Reynolds, Emma Rice, Jewelisa Richardson, Jacob Thebeau, Sydney Torres

**Juniors:** Alyssa-Rae Anderson, Kayla Belmore, Nathan Davis, Edward Edison, Marta Hellstrom, Sophya Hernandez, Jordyn Hodsdon-Beurman, Eddie Jacques, Rylie Keefe, Ella Kirkpatrick, Valerie Magill, Annie Maynard, Hunter McQuillan, Luis Melendez, Erin Mulcahy, Jason Nelson, Calvin Nfodjo, Kofi Owusu, Alexander

Paradise, Sarah Parker, Maya Staltare

**Sophomores:** Sarah Arndt, Alanna Borelli, Reylyn Boucher, Bwinja Bujiriri, Jaelynne Caraciolo, Savannah Cioppa, Gavin Clay-Zielonka, Keegan Comeau, Dylan Cordova del cid, Anna Costa Heroux, Conner Dawe, Sarah Fonseca, Chloe Gabis, Alexander Hamilton, Caelynn Harty, Jack Johnson, Andrew Nieber, Emma Reis, Paige Reynolds, Amaya RosarioGreen

**Freshman:** Isabella Amorim, Michelle Annancy, Gabrielle Bartlett, Ava Benway, Sofia Boucher, Audri Chalifoux, Grace Crouch, Cameron Davis, Zaria Edison, Brenna Elliott, Azariah Grant, Jordyn Grazulis, Nathan Holmes, Daymyin Lopez, Autumn Mitchell, Riley Moody, Chase Paul, Philip Rouillard, Braden Stone, Lillyanne Thompson-Forbes, Lily Trotter, Jasmine Wiafe

## 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.

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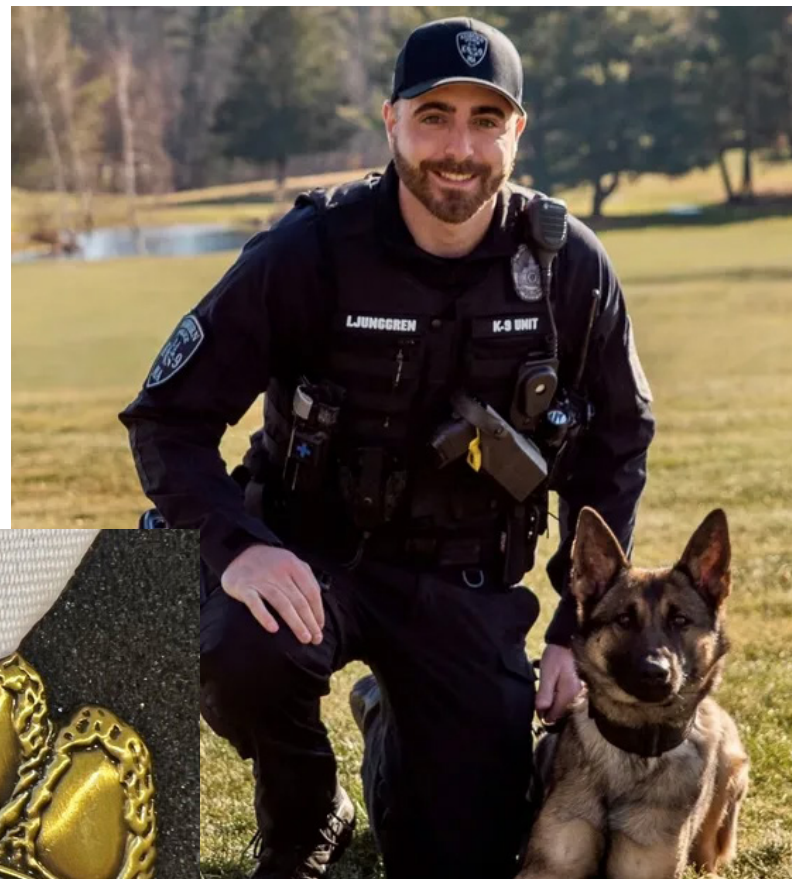
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## Paws of Courage

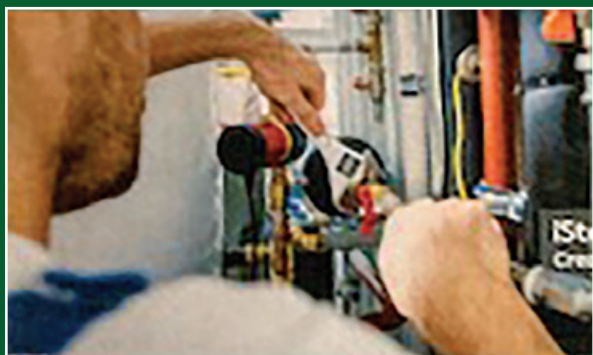
The American Kennel Club awarded K9 Biza and her handler Officer Ljunggren with the Paw of Courage Award for their role in locating a missing juvenile in the Pakachoag Hill area this past February. The child had been missing for about two hours in freezing temperatures. Biza found and followed the scent for two miles, leading police to the youngster. The Paw of Courage is an award to show appreciation for the work that dogs do in the service of humankind. This award recognizes dogs who serve their communities,



making great impacts in the lives of their human counterparts. DOGNY Paw of

Courage awards can be presented to Police K-9s and Military Working Dogs!  
*From the Auburn Police Facebook page:*

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# Hikes Through History with Alison O'Leary on May 5

A presentation on land-use change with the shift from an agrarian to industrial economy in Central Massachusetts



Award-winning journalist Alison O'Leary will take a walk through history and describe how our use of land changed when America's agrarian economy and culture shifted with the Industrial Revolution, on Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience museum.

Ms. O'Leary will also take us on a tour of some of the many Massachusetts parks and trails that have been carved out of historical sites.

The author is a Massachusetts history buff and outdoorswoman who has published five books on history, hiking, and travel. Her presentations include stunning visuals, insights into the research involved, historical perspective and humor.

This free presentation is sponsored by the Webster Cultural Council. Please register at samuelslaterexperience.org or leave a message at admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or 508-461-2955.

Hikes Through History will be from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, at the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray Street, Webster. Visitors who also plan to tour the museum should arrive by 1 p.m.

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**SPORTS**

# Lower Seed a Top Priority

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After putting together a successful regular season going 13-7 the Oxford softball team was awarded a 24 seed in the Division 5 State Tournament. The Pirates defeated Salem Academy Charter 17-1 and Westfield Tech 2-0 before eventually getting sent home by Drury 4-2.

This spring coach Jamie Hetherman is looking for his team to take things to the next level and make it a little easier once the team gets into the State Tournament. In losing to Drury, a school in North Adams, the Oxford team found themselves sitting in a bus for two hours traveling 110 miles to finally make their playoff game. If the team had managed to defeat Drury, they would have then had to travel another 87.5 miles and an hour and a half on the bus to square off against Greenfield.

"This year, we obviously want to make it make into the tournament while being competitive against the teams in our league, but I am looking for the girls to put together a better record, so that we can secure a higher seed and not have to travel as far as we did last year," the Pirates coach said. "The girls understand what the tournament is like now, they have the experience and know how to prepare for it. If we can get a better seeding, we won't have to travel that far again."

Sitting on a bus for numerous hours traveling to their next game, while the opponent is relaxing at home waiting for you to arrive is not what Oxford is looking to do this spring in the post-season. With that said, the Pirates are going to take to the field each and every day working as hard as they can so that they don't have to be put into the situation they were in last year during the tournament.

As the Pirates gear up for the 2024 season Hetherman has returning all but one player, his number one pitcher, from last year's squad. Oxford will field three senior starters, five sophomores (all who have started since the eighth grade and have been playing together since they were very young on town and travel teams) and one freshman starter this spring.

Captains Kyra Krasinskas and Hailey Angel will look to guide the Pirates to a successful season on the diamond. Hetherman expects Krasinskas to be his number one hurler and while it looks as though the sophomore may see the majority of time in the circle, things will all depend on the opposition. The Pirate coach may go with three girls taking turns pitching.

Angel is a very polished player that has it all according to the coach. The sophomore will see the majority of her time at second base but may shift over to shortstop on occasion. In addition to



being able to run, catch and throw, for a sophomore she has a vast knowledge of the game and is very strong offensively as well as on the defensive side of the ball.

In addition to Krasinskas coming at the opposition when they step into the batters box, Hetherman will also see what two other young hurlers can give the team this year. Sophomore Sarah Arndt and freshman Emily Dupuis will get the opportunity to take to the circle for the Pirates.

"Sarah seems to have more in her arsenal than the other two



girls. She saw a little bit of action for us last year, but she pitches for her travel team," Hetherman said. "Emily pitched on the junior varsity team last year and although I have not seen much of her this year she is a good athlete and I expect big things from her so she should see some innings in addition to her playing third."


At the plate Oxford is a very fast team and is looking to make things happen once they get on base. A trio of seniors - left fielder Skylar Vincent, right fielder Kaylee Karnes and infielder Anais Ortiz - will hold that responsibility. According to the skipper, Vincent and Karnes have come a long way from the beginning and have turned themselves into bona-fide softball players, who when the season

comes to an end, it will be hard to see them leave. Ortiz, a four-year player, will find her action coming at first or second base, with the former being her mainstay. Last season she came on strong down the stretch with her bat providing the team with some big hits.

Another freshman, Ariella Donahue, will be another key piece to the Pirates season if they want to lower their rankings. Donahue will see action at shortstop and as a catcher behind the plate.

"She is an all-around good athlete and as a seventh grader during Covid she played very well," the Coach said. "She plays really well in the field too and I expect big things from her. She will also be our number three hitter in the lineup."



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# Local Chefs use Girl Scout Cookies as Main Ingredient in the 'Sweetest' Culinary Competition

Sample Sweet and Savory Masterpieces While Supporting Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is pleased to announce the return of its Fork It Over fundraising event at a new venue, Top of the Tower, on May 9, 2024. The annual Girl Scout Cookie culinary competition features some of the region's top chefs creating unique sweet and savory dishes using favorites like Thin Mints®, Samoas® and Do-si-dos® and presenting their creations to attendees and a distinguished panel of judges.

This year's chefs include those from: Bri's Sweet Treats, The Burgah Bar, Figsfood Portuguese Cuisine, Hilltop Restaurant at Bay Path RVTHS, Little Havana, Mozelle's Sweet Shoppe, Pastry Chef Medina, Simply Delicious Catering, and Unique Café.

The panel of judges who will determine the winners in both "Sweet" and "Savory" categories are Barbara Houle of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette; Attorney Rubby Wuabu, Policy and Cabinet Affairs Liaison for Governor Maura Healey; Natalie Rodriguez, CEO of To Life Enterprises and talented chef; Patrick Baliva, Executive Sales Director at Saint-Gobain, and Dr. Marlina Duncan, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at UMass Chan Medical School. Attendees will vote for a "People's Choice" favorite.

The event is emceed by veteran radio show host Jen Carter, co-host of The XLO Morning Show and will feature live musical entertainment performed by Newport Ave., bar services by Simply Delicious Catering, and

a raffle with local and regional items including a New England Sports package featuring Patriots pre-season game tickets and behind-the-plate Worcester Red Sox tickets, a one night stay at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge including breakfast for two at Henrietta's Table paired with other local Boston attractions, a private wine class for 20 hosted by Total Wine, a Central Massachusetts Restaurant Gift Card bundle, and many more items.

The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Top of the Tower, 446 Main St., Worcester. Tickets are \$60 each and are available at <https://www.gscwm.org/en/support-us/donate-locally/events/fork-it-over.html> or by calling 508-365-0115. All proceeds benefit Girl Scouts and their continuing efforts to provide innovative programs and vital support to girls in grades K-12 throughout central and western Massachusetts.

Sponsors include: Saint-Gobain, The Hanover Insurance Group, Women's Initiative-United Way of Central MA, Country Bank, UMass Chan Medical School, Central One Credit Union, Middlesex Savings Bank, Cornerstone Bank, Tinsley Financial Group, CSR Financial, Fallon Health, Stowe & Degon, St. Mary's Credit Union, Main Street Bank, and Leominster Credit Union.

For more information: Jess Hamilton [jhamilton@gscwm.org](mailto:jhamilton@gscwm.org), or 508-365-0115, x3623.

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# Oxford Library May Calendar

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

10:00 a.m.  
 Terrific Tots Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 2 - 3.5 and their caregivers. 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.  
 This is now a ticketed program. No registration required! Come to the Children's Floor up to 30 minutes prior to the start of Storytime to get a ticket. Once all of the tickets

are handed out then the Storytime is full.

## THURSDAY, MAY 2

• 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
 Multi-age Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 1-5 and their caregiver. 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.  
 This is now a ticketed program. No registration required! Come to the Children's Floor up to 30 minutes prior to the start of Storytime to get a ticket. Once all of the tickets

are handed out then the Storytime is full.

• 11:30 a.m.  
 Baby Besties Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 0-12 months (or pre-walkers) and their caregiver. 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.  
 This is now a ticketed program. No registration required! Come to the Children's Floor up to 30 minutes prior to the start of Storytime to get a ticket. Once all of the tickets are handed out then the Storytime is full.

• 1 - 3 p.m.  
 Knitting, Crocheting & Embroidery Group  
 Type: Adults

Location: Reading Room

## FRIDAY, MAY 3

• 10a.m.  
 Wonderful Ones Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers. 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 - 1:30 p.m.  
 Senior Book Group  
 Type: Adults

Location: Oxford Senior Center

## TUESDAY, MAY 7

• 10 a.m.  
 Hooray for Pre-K Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room

This program is for children ages 3.5 - 5 and their caregivers. 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.

• 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Importance of Bees with John Hedly  
 Type: Adults  
 Location: Downstairs Meeting Room  
 Join local beekeeper and Auburn resident, John Hedly, one of over 1,000 members of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association, a leader in beekeeping education for over 100 years. He will present on the following topics:

- Starting a beehive
- Collecting honey
- Physical structure of a hive
- Bee chores in and out of a hive
- the bee colony and its organization
- The importance of pollination

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

• 10 a.m.  
 Terrific Tots Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 2 - 3.5 and their caregivers. 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, MAY 9

• 10 - 10:30 a.m.  
 Multi-age Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room

• 11:30 a.m.  
 Baby Besties Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children

Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 0-12 months (or pre-walkers) and their caregiver. 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.

• 1-3 p.m.  
 Knitting, Crocheting & Embroidery Group  
 Type: Adults

Location: Reading Room  
 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Paint Night with Jean Walker  
 Type: Adults

Location: Downstairs Meeting Room  
 Registration required

Join us as we paint a hummingbird, just in time for spring, and part of the Oxford Pollinator's Campaign!  
 This is an all levels class for adults 18 and older.

## FRIDAY MAY 10

• 10 a.m.  
 Wonderful Ones Storytime (Ticketed)  
 Type: Children  
 Location: Storytime Room  
 This program is for children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers. 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.

## TUESDAY, MAY 14

• 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday Book Group  
 Type: Adults  
 Location: Reading Room

• 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Songs of the Great Willie Nelson with Matt York - Concert  
 Type: All Ages  
 Location: Downstairs Meeting Room  
 Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform songs and tell stories about the great Willie Nelson. York will focus on Willie's long and illustrious music career that has spanned over seven decades. In both 2022 and 2023, York was nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and last year, his album, Gently Used, was named one of the top albums by Worcester Magazine.

## THURSDAY, MAY 16

• 1- 3 p.m.  
 Knitting, Crocheting & Embroidery Group  
 Type: Adults  
 Location: Reading Room

*The library is closed May 25 and May 27 in observance of Memorial Day*

## THURSDAY, MAY 30

• 1- 3 p.m.  
 Knitting, Crocheting & Embroidery Group  
 Type: Adults  
 Location: Reading Room

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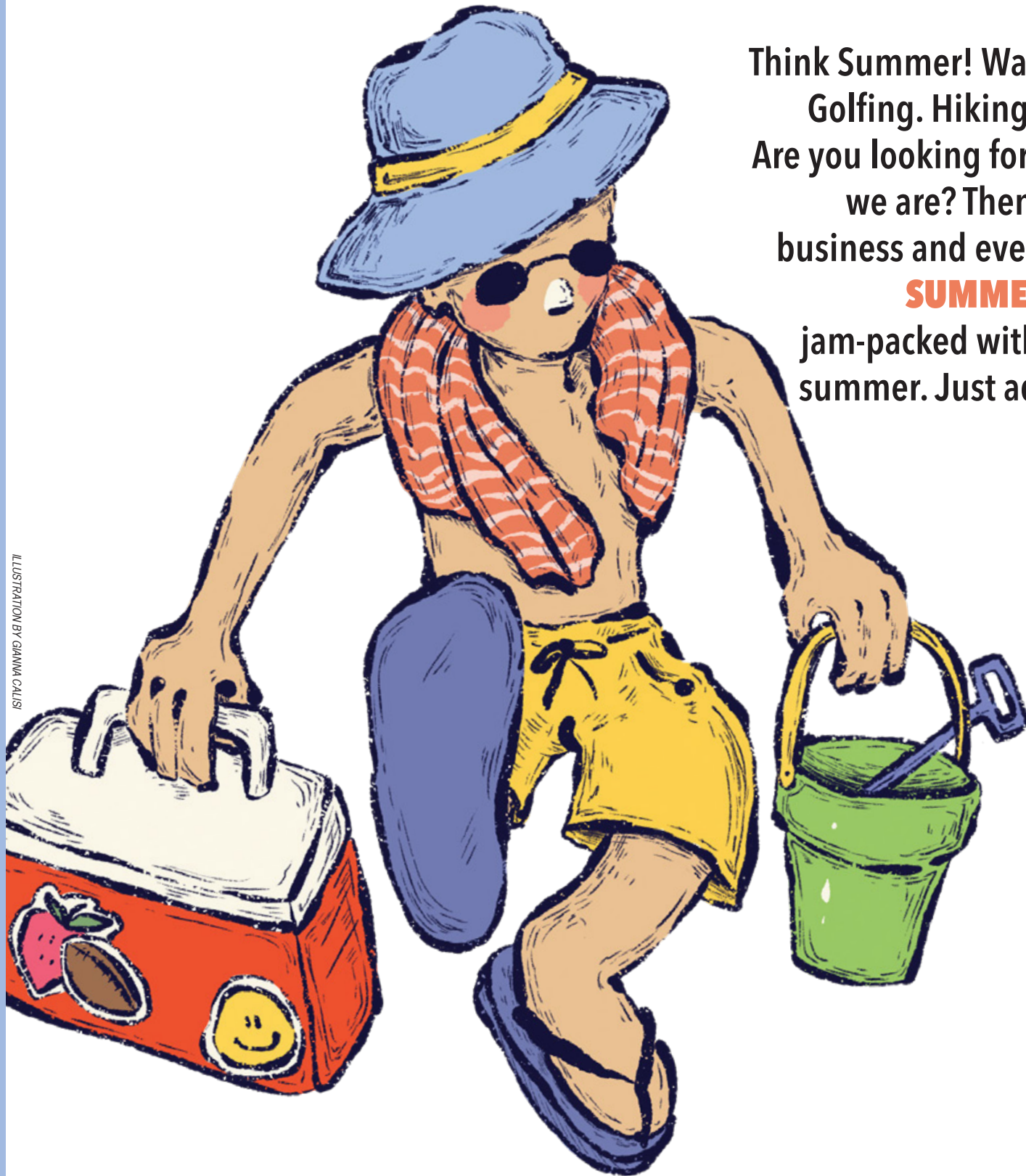
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# A Mother's Love

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

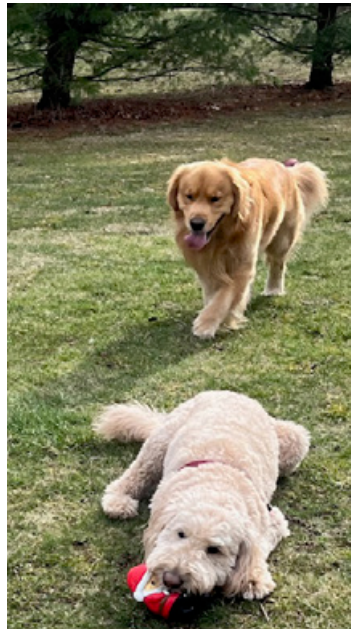
Something was different. Something wasn't adding up. I'm never up at 5 a.m. Nor do I shuffle down the stairs carrying a bright yellow container. Luke lifted his nose and sniffed out the truth. My dental retainer case would be the last to reach my suitcase. "Where's Mom headed?"

"I'll be back, Luke. I'll be back. I'm going to miss you so much." I kissed his head and embraced a bittersweet moment. I was headed for sunny Florida—no dog included. Would he be okay without me? Would the men of the household provide him with weekly playdates, surprise excursions and the daily assurance that he can sit outside on the front step as long as he's a good boy?

"Daddy and Ben are going to stay with you, Luke." He lifted his nose, skeptical.

Would they remember Luke's shows?

I gazed out the window on the way to the airport. The sky was dark, unforgiving. I wasn't supposed to be awake this early. The song "Don't Cry Out Loud" by Melissa Manchester, blared from the radio. Would Luke learn how to hide his feelings and keep it all inside? A lump settled in my throat. A dog will not leave our sides. Yet here I was leaving mine



Luke waits his turn

for a cheap stretch of sunshine.

A smooth flight led to an even smoother transition to the outdoors. Blue sky greeted me with a holiness that rallied New England greys. I felt optimistic about Palm Sunday and my pre-Easter vacation, while my parents pulled up to the sidewalk. We drove further away from home routines. Leisurely beach days gave way to dancing nights, poolside family reunions and sunny spirits. I followed Luke on his Instagram site (@livingwithlukevalentino) and sipped pina colodas. Luke offered up a virtual smile from his perch at a picnic table at Charlton's Treehouse Brewery. "Love you,

Luke." I sighed. Life was good. Until it wasn't

The report rained down on me like a New England storm, four days following my kitchen departure.

"Luke gets a D- today for his behavior with Rosie." Daddy's text was flat, lacking in tone.

Oh no! Luke has been an A student since he learned how to come when called at 8 weeks! Luke aims to please and is the most well-behaved of all my dogs! What happened? The tale of a dog unable to hide his feelings in the absence of his mother came to me through a series of elaborate text messages and one sorry phone call. Here's the story.

I had scheduled a playdate for Luke and Rosie at our house. Nothing new there. Rosie's Dog Mom, Kara, was one of Luke's favorite people. An energetic and kind-hearted schoolteacher, Kara typically manages playdates with a special dose of curriculum. She encourages turn-taking with outdoor toys, allows for competitive games of fetch, and stands by for rounds and rounds of Chase in the yard. Doodle and Golden, Rosie and Luke, gallop freely around the perimeter of my yard. Their collaborative speeds (and the energy!) is both fascinating and remarkable to watch. They exchange roles with profound dog communication. Luke jumps on Rosie's back. Rosie snarls then grabs Luke's favorite toy, a squeaking Santa, to assert her status. Luke remains patient but hits a wall after some time "You've had him the whole time, Rosie. My turn!" He barks at his friend's cheek again. She bounces off him and tests her limits, crossing into a neighbor's yard. "We're supposed to stay with our moms, Rosie." Luke sits like a king with a dirty face and waits for her to come back.

That cold March Monday was different.

Luke approached the mailbox, paused, and sniffed. Was he hoping to find a letter from me—a message to say that, perhaps, I was on my way home? We'll never know for sure. Nevertheless, he turned to the street and did the unimaginable. He raced towards a truck and apparently the decision was conscious! "Get back here, Luke! It's not worth it!! You have too much going for you!!" Warrior Rosemary lunged at Luke and bit his ear. Hard. "Get back into your yard this instance!" Her



Momma is home!

bark was grave, furious even.

Luke barked back. "Leave me, alone, Rosie!! You have your mom. I don't!" Thankfully, the driver, aware of looney Luke's be-

The men in my household did a tremendous job caring for him, even walking him three times per day. Still, something was missing. I needed to call my pup.



Rosie takes a turn with the Santa toy

havior, slowed to a crawl. Unfortunately, a dog feeling abandoned wasn't through feeling sorry for himself. He dashed away, finally landing at the fox den beneath our neighbor's shed. "At least they'll love me here."

The scene of a suicidal Luke played out viscerally in my mind as the story was told. My heart sank. Luke needed his mother.

"Put Luke on speaker phone!" (I was afraid Facetime might be counterintuitive) "Hi Luke! Are you having a good day?" I spoke in the doggie voice he knew and loved. "Mummy's coming home soon!" I envisioned the tilt of

LUKE

continued on page 13

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REAL ESTATE

# There won't be a wave of foreclosures in the housing market

My team often gets asked about...when are the foreclosures coming as a result of the pandemic? We always respond, "we hope never". But here is the response from some of our



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

lender friends. There won't be a wave of foreclosures in the housing market. When mortgage forbearance plans were first announced and the pandemic surged through the country in early 2020, many homeowners were allowed to pause their mortgage payments. Some analysts were concerned that once the forbearance program ended, the housing market would experience a wave of foreclosures like what happened after the housing bubble 15 years ago.

Here's a look at why that won't happen.

1. There are fewer homeowners in trouble this time. After the last housing crash, over nine million households lost their homes to a foreclosure, short sale, or because they gave it back to the bank. Many believed millions of homeowners would face the same thing again this time. However, today's data shows that most homeowners exited their forbearance plan either fully caught up on payments or with a plan from the bank that restructured their loan in a way that allowed them to start making payments again. The latest data from the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) studies how people exited the forbearance program from June 2020 to November 2021.

Here are those findings:

- 39% left the program paid in full
- 20% made their monthly payments during the forbearance period
- 12% made up all past-due payments
- 7% paid off the loan in full
- 44% negotiated work-out repayment plans
- 29% received a loan deferral
- 14% received a loan modification
- 0.8% arranged a different repayment plan
- 0.6% sold as a short sale or did a deed-in-lieu
- 17% left the program still in trouble and without a loss mitigation plan in place

2. Those left in the program can still negotiate a repayment plan. As of last Friday, the total number of mortgages still in forbearance stood at 890,000. Those who remain in forbearance still have the chance to work out a suitable plan with the servicing company that represents their lender. And the servicing companies are under pressure to do just that by both federal and state agencies.

3. Most homeowners have more than enough equity to sell their homes. For those who can't negotiate a solution and the 16.8% who left the forbearance program without a work-out, many will have enough equity to sell their homes and leave the closing with cash instead of facing foreclosures. Due to rapidly rising home prices over the last two years, the average homeowner has gained record amounts of equity in their home.

4. There have been far fewer foreclosures over the last two years. One of the less reported

benefits of the forbearance program was that it allowed households with financial difficulties prior to the pandemic to enter the program. It gave those homeowners an extra two years to get their finances in order and work out a plan with their lender. That prevented over 400,000 foreclosures that normally would have come to the market had the new forbearance program not been available. Otherwise, the real estate market would have had to absorb those foreclosures.

5. The current market can easily absorb over a million new listings. When foreclosures hit the market in 2008, they added to the oversupply of houses that were already for sale. That resulted in over a nine-month supply of listings, and anything over a six-month supply can cause prices to depreciate. It's exactly the opposite today. Total housing inventory at the end of November amounted to about 1.11 million units, down almost 10% from October and down over 13% from one year ago (1.28 million). Unsold inventory sits at a 2.1-month supply at the current sales pace, a decline from both the prior month and from one year ago.

A balanced market would have approximately a six-month supply of inventory. At 2.1 months, the market is severely understocked. Even if one million homes enter the market, there still won't be enough inventory to meet the current demand. If you have real estate needs, contact a member of the Marzeotti Group or a trusted real estate professional.

red-hot chili pepper, whimpered (overjoyed), and circled my lap. "Not gonna' lie, things have been rough, but I'm so glad you're back!!!" We settled down on his family room bed just like old times. Luke licked my face, chewed his bone, and fell back into old habits.

A Mother's love is irreplaceable.

## LUKE

continued from page 12

his curious, blockhead while he reconciled my voice through the phone. A call was okay, though pale in comparison to our in-person reunion.

"Luke!! I missed you so much! I dashed into the kitchen, tossed my bag aside, and planted myself on the floor. Luke grabbed his



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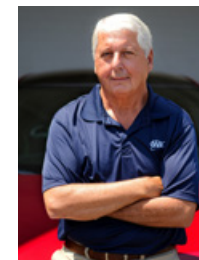


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## THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

# Too Good to Be True? It's Most Likely a Scam



BY JOHN PAUL

**Q.** I recently looked at a car for sale on Facebook Marketplace and it looked great and almost too good to be true. After a couple of days, my wife talked me out of it. My question is, can you tell if something is a good deal or a scam?

**A.** A neighbor recently sent me a listing for a 2008 Volkswagen Beetle convertible for just \$1000. The car was very clean, claimed one owner and didn't have the typical VW convertible issues, such as lose rear window, power rear window issues and worn-out front seats and rusty rockers panels. The ad stated low price for quick sale. Typically, according to Kely Blue Book that car sells for \$5-\$6000, which is the first red flag. I also looked up the seller and the same car was listed on the same day in 20 locations across the country, second red flag and the third issue was the lack of a visible VIN in any pictures. At that point, my best guess was it was a scam.

**Q.** Since Covid-19 I have been working from home and living in an apartment near where our office is located. Since there is no reason to be in one spot, I recently purchased a 2015 Winnebago Travato class B motor home. It has very low miles and was part of an estate sale. The vehicle has been sitting for 18 months. What should I do before I become part of "Van-Life"?

**A.** The Travato is based on the front wheel drive RAM Promaster line of vehicles and are typically equipped with the 3.6-liter V-6 engine. I would start by checking all the fluids and change the engine oil. Look at the tires, they may be original and have some dry rot, check the drive belts and hoses, cooling system (some had faulty fan modules) as well as the brakes and steering components. If it has a generator, check for proper operation, and change the engine oil. Check or replace the truck battery as well as the "house" battery. Run both the cabin air conditioner as well as the roof top unit. Check all the "house" water lines and pumps, storage tanks for cleanliness, proper operation and leaks. Try the refrigerator and water heater, if dual fuel, try them both on propane and electricity. If everything checks out good or has been repaired, start your adventure, and send pictures.

**Q.** What is the estimated cost to replace the transmission on a 2014 Infinity Q50? I was told the car needs a transmission and the price quoted was a bit shocking. I just wanted to make sure I was not being taken advantage of.

**A.** Assuming the car is not a hybrid and rear wheel drive, the factory part is \$10,000 with some online Infiniti parts outlets selling it for \$8800. The labor time to install the transmission is about five hours. Today we are seeing typical labor rates at \$150-\$250 per hour. Add in fluid,

miscellaneous parts and shop supplies and the total price could be \$12,000. At that price you need to consider if it is worth the money to have the repair performed. There are many Infiniti Q50s selling for less than the cost of the repair. If it were me, I would certainly have an overall evaluation of the car performed to see if there are other pending costly issues and get a second opinion and estimate on the transmission issue.

**Q.** My 2014 BMW 528i X Drive vibrates when I stop when I leave the care in gear. It stops when I put it in neutral. The dealer says I need to replace the motor mounts. My mechanic says it is not dangerous and replacing one of the mounts may correct the problem. How much should this cost, and should I have both mounts replaced for safety reasons? The car has 95,000 miles on it. What would cause the mounts to need replacement?

**A.** Motor mounts can fail due to aggressive driving, oil or other fluid contamination and internal failure. BMW uses liquid filled mounts rather than solid rubber and the liquid can leak out which would cause a vibration. If the mounts are worn, they should be replaced-there are two engine mounts and one transmission mount. The engine mounts are \$140 each and take about 4.5 hours to replace them. Labor rates vary depending on location with the dealers typically being on the higher side. If a local shop is doing the work rather than the dealer, I would only use BMW parts on this car, after market mounts may fit but could cause may cause other weird vibrations.

CAR DOCTOR  
continued on page 15

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

# Can you save too much for a rainy day?

“Save for a rainy day” is an old piece of advice — and a good one. But is it possible to save too much?

To begin with, what defines a “rainy day” in terms of financial needs? It could be any number of things: a temporary loss of employment, a major home or car repair, a large medical bill, and so on.



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

If you did not have the money readily available to pay for these types of expenses, you might be forced to dip into your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement accounts, incurring taxes and possible penalties, as well as lowering the amount of money you’d have available for retirement. And that’s why it’s a good idea to build an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of total expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that’s separate from the accounts you use for your daily spending needs.

An emergency fund is valuable, but many people may be over-funding it. And while this isn’t the biggest financial mistake one

can make, it could result in some missed opportunities.

For one thing, when you keep money in a low-risk account, you can generally count on your principal being protected, which means the money will be there for you when you need it —but the flip side is that this money likely won’t grow very much, if at all. And if you’re going to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you need your investment portfolio to provide you with significant growth potential within the context of your individual risk tolerance. So, any excess dollars kept in your rainy-day fund might be used to help fuel some growth-oriented investments.

You could also use these dollars to help diversify your investment portfolio. If you only owned one type of investment, your portfolio could take a big hit if a market downturn affected just that asset class. But by owning a mix of stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments, you can help reduce the impact of market volatility. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can’t protect against all losses.)

Still, before deciding on what to do with extra money you might have in your emergency fund, how will you know if you indeed

have too much? Up to six months’ worth of total expenses may be adequate for most people — but everyone’s life is different. For example, if you have reason to believe your employment — or that of your spouse — may be in jeopardy in the near future, or if you anticipate the need for some renovations to your home, but not for a year or so, you might want more than six months of expenses tucked away in your emergency fund. Also, once you’re retired, you may well want to keep a year’s worth of expenses in the fund. If you need cash, you don’t want to be forced to sell investments when their price may be down, especially since you have less time for them to recover.

Ultimately, when thinking about how much to keep in your emergency fund, review your situation carefully and weigh as many variables as you can. And if you do decide your rainy-day fund is abundant, use any “overflow” in a way that can help you keep moving toward your financial goals.

*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*


**Q.** I read your column every week and enjoy the Q&A. It takes me back to the early 70s when I first owned a car and learned to do some of my own repair work. Those days are gone now for me, but I do have a maintenance question and I have had difficulty finding a straight answer so maybe you can assist me. We have a 2016 Hyundai Elantra SE sedan with the standard engine and 46,000 miles on it which we purchased new in

October 2015. It has always been well-maintained according to the manual recommendations. The question is when to replace the timing belt. I see some information saying 90,000 miles but I wonder if the age of the car should be part of the question. I have been quoted a price of \$1400 which I think includes the water pump. It is a lot of money for us, but I will do it if needed.

**A.** You are correct, that age can influence the life of a rubber timing belt. But on your Hyundai both the 1.8-liter and 2.0-liter engines use a timing chain. Typically, If the car is properly

maintained (routine oil changes) does not require any maintenance for the life of the car.

*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 jpaull@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*



## Prayer

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

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

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Abram's Rock

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

This story is from our upcoming book, Ghosts of King Philip's War due out on

July 22, 2024. The book is filled with legends, ghost stories, and haunted places from the war and subsequent skirmishes that took place years after the last treaty

was signed. If you are looking for a nice small hike with a lot of history and perhaps a ghost, Abram's Rock is the perfect place to visit.

At the outset of King Philip's War, several tribes chose to remain neutral for various reasons. Most of the converted, or praying Indians sided with the English. Members of the warring tribes often dissented and pledged their allegiance to the colonies much like the Tories of the American Revolution pledged their allegiance to the throne instead of fighting for independence from the mother country. This is the legend of one of those dissenters during King Philip's War called Abram by the English.

Abram was a renegade Christian praying Indian who deserted the Wampanoags during the conflict in favor of siding with the English. Abram became very close friends with the English, so much so, that there were rumors circulating among the

Wampanoag that he even had an English girlfriend. This made Philip, whose real name was Metacom, very angry as Abram knew much of Philip's plans and strategies regarding the proposed annihilation of the enemy. Philip sought to take Abram back and sent a search party out to find him.

In the meantime, Abram had found a towering rock he used as a hiding place and lookout. The west side of the large boulder had a natural room formed by other large boulders. This was where he lived in seclusion for several months until he was found and captured. Philip, being merciful at the time, gave him a chance to live. Abram was given the choice of leaping from the massive formation three times or instant death. Abram chose to take a chance and leap from the rock. Some historians argue Abram voluntarily performed the act as a testament of his loyalty to Philip.

Tradition says he successful-

ly completed the first and second leaps unscathed, but the third one became his demise. Legend has it that his ghost can be seen leaping from the rock, then appearing again at the top for another leap. The third time the ghost attempts to leap, he vanishes. Perhaps he is still trying to complete the task he failed.

Whether a hike out to the rock reveals a ghost or not should not deter one from soaking up the history and atmosphere of the place.

Abram's Rock is in Village Park behind the Swansea Town Hall and Library complex at 81 Main St. The trail leading to the rock is easy and there are signs to follow. One trail heads straight toward the site while another takes hikers past the cemetery in a more circular route that is both pleasant and scenic. The natural room formation is still there and is called "Abram's Bedroom" as that is where he allegedly lived during his months of hiding.

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# Indian Ranch Adds Second Show with Get The Led Out

Due to popular demand, a second Get The Led Out show has been added at Indian Ranch in Webster, MA on Friday, August 23, 2024. Limited tickets are left for the first show on June 15th. Tickets go on-sale this Saturday, April 20th at 10:00 AM at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com). A limited number of Low Dough Early Bird General Admission tickets will be available for just \$30 through April 26th, while supplies last.

From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, Get The Led Out (GTLO) have captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage.

The Philadelphia-based group consists of six veteran musicians intent on delivering Led Zeppelin live, like you've never heard before. Utilizing the multi-instrumentalists at their disposal, GTLO re-create the songs in all their depth and glory with the studio overdubs that Zeppelin themselves never performed. When you hear three guitars on the album...GTLO delivers three guitarists on stage. No wigs or fake English accents, GTLO brings what the audience wants...a high energy Zeppelin concert with an honest, heart-thumping intensity.

Dubbed by the media as "The American Led Zeppelin," Get The Led Out offers a strong focus on the early years. They also touch on the deeper cuts that were seldom, if ever heard in concert. GTLO also include a special "acoustic set" with Zep favorites such as "Tangerine" and "Hey Hey What Can I Do."

GTLO has amassed a strong national touring history, having performed at major club and PAC venues across the country. GTLO's approach to their performance of this hallowed catalog is not unlike a classical performance. "Led Zeppelin are sort of the classical composers of the rock era," says lead vocalist Paul Sinclair. "I believe 100 years from now they will be looked at as the Bach or Beethoven of our time. As cliché as it sounds, their music is timeless."

A GTLO concert mimics the "light and shade" that are the embodiment of "The Mighty Zep." Whether it's the passion and fury with which they deliver the blues-soaked, groove-driven rock anthems, it's their attention to detail and nuance that makes a Get The Led Out performance a truly awe-inspiring event!

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands

steps from Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungmaugg. 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 and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Tickets are on sale now for Jo Dee Messina on June 1st, VOYAGE - CELEBRATING THE MUSIC ON JOURNEY on June 9th, Get The Led Out on June 15th, The Mavericks on June 22nd, Scotty McCreery on June 23rd, Three Dog Night on June 29th, Elle King on June 30th, Justin Hayward and Christopher Cross on July 7th, Aaron Lewis on July 14th (July 13th show is sold out), The Pike Hairfest on July 20th, RUMOURS: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show on July 21st, and Yachtley Crëw on July 25th, Almost Queen: A Tribute to QUEEN on July 27th, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA on August 2nd, Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime on August 3rd, Grace Potter on August 4th, Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel on August 9th, Ripe on August 10th, The Beach Boys on August 11th, and Tyler Hubbard on August 18th, Little Feat on



August 24th, and Brett Young on September 7th. More shows will be announced soon.

Tickets for Get The Led Out on Friday, August 23, 2024 went on-sale Saturday, April 20. A limited number of Low Dough Early Bird GA tickets will be available for just \$30, April 20th-April 26th. Gates

open at 5:00 PM, showtime is 7:00 PM. Tickets are available at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.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. For more information, visit [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).

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

**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](http://openskys.org/fishingvolunteers). Pre-registration will open starting April 5 at [thebrwa.org/familyfishing2024](http://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.

at 508-234-2156 or email [parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org) to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

• Grass Roots Coffeehouse Concert featuring Blackstone Valley Bluegrass! The band plays a mixture of traditional, contemporary, and original Bluegrass music and always puts on an entertaining show. The Grass Roots Coffeehouse is located at the Rockdale Congregational Church, 42 Fowler Road Northbridge. Admission to the concert is \$15. Hot foods, beverages and desserts are available prior to the concert and during intermission. Doors open at 6:45, concert begins at 7:30 and usually wraps up by 9:30. Proceeds support the artists and the church. The Coffeehouse is run by volunteers. For more info: [www.rockdalechurchoonline.org](http://www.rockdalechurchoonline.org) or call Bob at 617-429-0347.

• Charlton City United Methodist Church is excited to announce a new quarterly series: Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show. The first show will be May 4 from 10-4 at 74 Stafford Street, Charlton. Watch for dates for future shows every quarter. Each show will be jam-packed with vendors and will feature baked goods and drinks. Any interested vendors of collectibles, cards, or crafts can contact Joe Dupont at [joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com](mailto:joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com) for this or future shows. The May 4 show will feature rare Pokemon cards from Dynamic Card Collectors; comics and toys from Remember that Collectibles; a variety of trading card game cards from Wicked East Coasters and Toyland Treasures; Epicure products for food

service from Barbara's Epic Eats; Bee Jewelry and Scarves; Essential Oils and natural wellness products and tips; handmade greeting cards; fly fishing ties; Sweet Leilani Crafts & SassiePastries; anime/gaming/kawaii merchandise from Tokkishi; and many, many more. Hope to see you there!

• Annual Fishing Festival Geared to All Ages. The Oxford Conservation Commission has teamed up with the Department of Fish & Game again this year to introduce fishing to those new to the sport. Fishing instructors will teach how to set up your rod, tie knots, cast and identify fish on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Carbundle Pond in Oxford. This family-friendly event is open to all levels of experience and ages, and no fishing license is needed. Participants can bring their own gear or borrow it from the instructors; bait will also be provided. In addition to the fishing fun, Rangers from The Last Green Valley will be on hand to discuss the multitude of outdoor opportunities in the area from hiking and canoeing to upcoming cultural events. Attendees can also learn about wildlife and nature activities available at the nearby Hodges Village Dam and Buffumville Dam from Army Corps of Engineers Rangers. The first Family Fishing Festival at Carbundle Pond took place in 2016 and due to its success, has been scheduled every year since then!

**HAPPENINGS!**  
*continued on page 19*

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**MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

 <b>JO DEE MESSINA</b> New England Homecoming <b>JUNE 1 • 1PM</b>	 <b>VOYAGE</b> CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JOURNEYS <b>JUNE 9 • 1PM</b>	 <b>GET THE LED OUT</b> A CELEBRATION OF "THE NIGHTY ZEP" <b>JUNE 15 • 7PM</b> <b>AUGUST 23 • 7PM</b>	 <b>THE MAVERICKS</b> MOON & STARS SUMMER TOUR '24 <b>JUNE 22 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Scotty McCreery</b> LIVE IN CONCERT <b>JUNE 23 • 1PM</b>	 <b>THREE DOG NIGHT</b> Live in concert <b>JUNE 29 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Elle King</b> <b>JUNE 30 • 1PM</b>	 <b>JUSTIN HAYWARD</b> A TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER <b>CHRISTOPHER CROSS</b> <b>JULY 7 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Aaron Lewis</b> <b>JULY 14 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Leppard</b> DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE EVERYBODY WANTS SOME <b>JULY 20 • 12PM</b>
 <b>RUMOURS</b> <b>JULY 21 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Yachtley Crew</b> <b>JULY 25 • 7PM</b>	 <b>ALMOST QUEEN</b> WITH SPECIAL GUEST STEVE LEONARD <b>JULY 27 • 1PM</b>	 <b>THE CONCERT</b> A TRIBUTE TO ABBA <b>AUGUST 2 • 7PM</b>	 <b>BADFISH</b> <b>AUGUST 3 • 1PM</b>	 <b>GRACE POTTER</b> <b>AUGUST 4 • 1PM</b>				
 <b>FACE 2 FACE</b> <b>AUGUST 9 • 7PM</b>	 <b>RIPE</b> <b>AUGUST 10 • 1PM</b>	 <b>The Beach Boys</b> ENDLESS SUMMER GOLD <b>AUGUST 11 • 1PM</b>	 <b>TYLER HUBBARD</b> LIVE <b>AUGUST 18 • 1PM</b>	 <b>Little Feat</b> CAN'T BE SATISFIED TOUR WITH SPECIAL GUEST STEEL WHEELS <b>AUGUST 24 • 1PM</b>	 <b>BRETT YOUNG</b> LIVE IN CONCERT <b>SEPTEMBER 7 • 1PM</b>				

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The Indian Ranch Box Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 10AM - 3PM. Tickets are also available by phone: 1-800-514-ETIX (3849). All events are rain or shine. No refunds. For ticketing and group sales, contact [tickets@indianranch.com](mailto:tickets@indianranch.com) or call 508.943.3871. For information on private events, banquets and renting the Indian Princess Paddlewheel Boat, contact [banquets@samuelsslatters.com](mailto:banquets@samuelsslatters.com). Indian Ranch is less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA.

# Auburn Public Library Evening Book Club

The next meeting of the Evening Book Club will be a 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13. The book being read is “The Violin Conspiracy” by Brendan Slocumb. The library will provide books for all meetings. For more information contact rose Laird at [roselaird2@charter.net](mailto:roselaird2@charter.net) or library director [jcollins@town.aubun.ma.us](mailto:jcollins@town.aubun.ma.us) or call 508-882-7790.

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 18*

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

• Rough Seas, Safe Harbor: Wings of Song Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church 16 East Main Street, Webster, 7:30 p.m. Admission to concerts is free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. “Rough Seas, Safe Harbor” will take audiences on a huge sea voyage, much of it aboard a whaling ship that might have left New Bedford, Mass. in, say, the 1850s, and sailed practically around the world, separating crew members from their families for as long as four years.

These concerts are sponsored in part by the Monson and Sturbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Wings of Song is grateful for this support—and for the continued support of their many faithful audience regulars, supplemented by first-timers whom we’re always glad to see!

Anyone needing more information is encouraged to email Music Director Cooke at [nymcooke@gmail.com](mailto:nymcooke@gmail.com) or Wings of Song President Carol Curtin at [carolcurtin77@gmail.com](mailto:carolcurtin77@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

• 4:00pm Bethel Lutheran Church/Grace Ministries of Auburn will be performing music concert “Peace & Praise” as they continue to celebrate their Centennial Anniversary. The program will include present as well as many past organists/music directors, choir members & musicians including hymns/anthems/contemporary music by choir embers, bell choir and children’s performances. A reception will follow. All are welcome to either attend or participate in this festive, free-will offering event. For more information contact Adam Hanks at [arhanks42385@hotmail.com](mailto:arhanks42385@hotmail.com).

• Save the date! Sutton Garden Club is pleased to announce that our Annual Plant Sale will be held on Sutton Common on Saturday, May 18th, 10am - 12Noon. SGC members will be dividing and potting up a variety of perennial plants from our gardens in preparation for the sale. Proceeds from the Plant Sale fund our community efforts, including our Scholarship Fund, plantings and maintenance at the Bandstand and Manchaug Square during the summer, decorations and wreaths for the Bandstand

and Commons at Christmastime and also helps fund our Gardening programs during the year. Updates regarding the Plant Sale, including any in case of severe weather, will be posted on our Facebook page, <https://facebook.com/SuttonGardenClub>

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

• The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus will present their concert, American Rhythms & Roots, on Sunday, May 19th, 2024 at 3:00pm. The concert will take place at Valley Chapel at 14 Hunter Road in Uxbridge. American Rhythms & Roots includes a blend of American folk music and jazz standards and celebrates American songwriters from George and Ira Gershwin to John Denver. Admission is free, though donations are accepted and appreciated! The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus is composed of singers from towns throughout Central Massachusetts. Singing under the direction of Diane Pollard of Douglas, the BVCC has been committed to bringing varied musical performance opportunities to the Blackstone Valley for almost twenty years. Visit the BVCC on Facebook or at [www.bvccchorus.com](http://www.bvccchorus.com) for more information.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

• Saint Peter’s Parish in Northbridge will be holding a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 1st, 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@stpeterockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org).

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8

• Please join us for our Annual Community Yard And Plant Sale! As we’ve done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we’ll do all the advertising and remember, our prime location can’t be beat! Spaces Are \$25 For Non-Members. Tables Are Available To Rent For \$5 Each. Last year our Community Yard Sale and Plant Sale was so successful that we had to implement a wait list! We anticipate the same level of interest again this year, so don’t delay in reserving your spot. We are very excited at the thought of gathering, again, with our church family and our neighbors on the church’s front lawn. Call the church office, 508-832-2845, to reserve your spot! All are welcome! First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn.

### 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, May 4: Mendon Town Forest Hike, Mendon  
Saturday, May 18: Wallis Pond Loop Hike, Douglas  
Saturday, June 15: Douglas State Forest Hike, Douglas



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