

Groundbreaking for Bartlett High renovation



The speakers at the Bartlett High School groundbreaking each grabbed a shovel to mark the occasion. Submitted photo

The groundbreaking for the \$101 million Bartlett High School renovation took place on April 8 at 77 Poland Street. According to the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) website, the project will preserve a beloved school building, while addressing climate change through sustainable building practices and maintaining the town's high educational goals.

The ceremony featured the Bartlett High School Choir opening with the National Anthem. The group also closed with the Bartlett High School song. Speakers included the Honorable Joseph McKenna, state Representative,

Kylie Gibbons from state Senator Ryan Fattman's office, Mary Pichetti, MSBA Executive Director, former Superintendent Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed. D., Richard LaFond, Town Administrator, David Hurton, School Building Committee chair, Kelly Seddiki, School Committee chair, Monique Pierangeli, Superintendent of Schools and Ryan Collins Bartlett High School principal.

After the groundbreaking, refreshments were served in the Michael Makara Conference Room.

The high school shares a campus with the middle school and features basketball courts, soccer fields and baseball fields. An exten-

sive woodland of oak, maple and white pine will remain untouched during construction.

Renovation of this school building allows the town to meet its ambitious educational goals, including innovation pathways for advanced manufacturing, and for healthcare and human assistance, that distance themselves from less innovative high-school models, and allow for internships, industry credentialing, and dual enrollment in local colleges. Because students have changed and the job market has changed, Webster is choosing to renovate its building to meet its enhanced educational vision.

William C. Pieczynski named ninth president of Nichols College

William C. Pieczynski, current interim president at Nichols College, has been named the ninth president of the nationally ranked business school.

The appointment was announced by the Nichols College Board of Trustees and is effective May 1, 2024.

"We are thrilled that Bill has accepted our invitation to assume the presidency of Nichols College," said Randall V. Becker '83, MBA '96, chair of the Board of Trustees.

"Bill has led Nichols through a period of transition with deft skill and unquestionable success. He is a natural leader, a man of great character, and cares deeply about Nichols and its extended community. He is uniquely qualified to harness the College's recent momentum and continue the upward trajectory that now ranks Nichols among the national leaders in salary potential and return on investment."

President Pieczynski has a long

and distinguished career at Nichols, working closely with faculty, staff and students across academic disciplines and campus-wide departments. He joined the College



William C. Pieczynski

as director of the Nichols Fund in 2006, where he was charged with expanding the President's Society, generating annual funds and overseeing alumni relations. President Pieczynski was named vice president for advancement in 2010 when he oversaw the successful completion of the College's

NICHOLS

continued on page 4

Bark Mulch • Screened Loam • Stone Dust • Colored Stone • Compost • Sand • Gravel • Fill

We Sell Amish Patio Furniture

Enter To Win FREE Mulch Call for Details

Order in store for 2 chances to win FREE MULCH

Get Mom a Hanging Basket

PRIMITIVE FARMHOUSE DECOR

PERENNIALS \$3.95 each
We Carry Annuals and Vegetable Plants!

BARK MULCH We Offer Delivery

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Hemlock | \$40 ⁰⁰ | Contractor Grade Mulch Black, Brown or Red per yard \$32 |
| Red Cedar..... | \$38 ⁰⁰ | |
| Brown | \$38 ⁰⁰ | |
| Black..... | \$38 ⁰⁰ | |
| Playground Mulch ... | \$38 ⁰⁰ | |

per yard

259 Worcester Road/Rt. 20, Charlton, MA 01507
WE DELIVER 7 DAYS A WEEK • WWW.CHARLTONLANDSCAPESUPPLY.COM

508-450-6363

TAKE 10% OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 5.31.2024

HARBRO
AUTO SALES SERVICE
WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER
(508) 499-3510
harbroauto.com/service

Slater Woods Conservation Land Expands with New Purchase

BY PATTY ROY

The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) has announced the acquisition of a 56-acre parcel of conservation land that offers over 1900 feet of water frontage on Peter Pond.

The parcel, which adjoins existing Slater Wood properties owned by the land trust, was purchased from Dudley resident Richard Lavallee on April 8.

A land trust is an organization that acquires land with the goal of conserving and protecting it. According to its website, the mission of the DCLT is “to provide for and promote the conservation, acquisition and protection of land and open space for education, wildlife habitat, and the preservation of the

rural, natural and scenic character of Dudley and surrounding communities for current and future generations.”

Keith Kirkland, DCLT president, said the \$170,000 acquisition was made possible by the combined legacies of the late Chet Kulisa and Nancy Vajcovec.

Kulisa, for many years a local dairy farmer and soil conservationist for the Department of Agriculture, founded the land trust and fostered land conservation in his hometown. He was also instrumental in getting the Mass Audubon property, Pierpont Wildlife Meadow, started from lands he donated from his former farm property.

Nancy Vajcovec was a long-time Dudley resident and board mem-

ber of the land trust.

“She had a lot of different passions, but one of them was what the DCLT did for land conservation,” Kirkland said. “We’re very grateful to Chet and Nancy for making the purchase possible and to the Lavallee family for providing the opportunity.”

The parcel is especially welcomed because it abuts land already owned by the DCLT in addition to the frontage on Peter Pond, Kirkland said.

“We are honored to give folks a unique opportunity to connect with nature on a scale that can’t be found in any other part of Dudley,” he said, adding that the land trust also wants to recognize the history of the area.

“In fact, one of the prior own-



ers of the 56 acres dating back to 1839 was Samuel Slater and Sons, and an adjoining landowner was the Dudley Woolen Company,” Kirkland said.

He believes the pond was man-made back in the days of the mills. With just four or five houses by it, the water has remained clean, he said.

In total, the DCLT has conserved 200 acres in the area called “Slater Woods”, a designated area of more than 1000 acres, identified as a “Priority Core Habitat” by the state Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Priority core habitat is unfragmented land where there is little or no housing and no roads that is “pretty much in its natural state with forests, streams and small ponds,” he said.

Counting in the 150 acres of adjoining Mass. Audubon holdings, there are now more than 350 acres of protected land in Slater Woods, with two more parcels of conservation land under negotiation, according to Kirkland.

DCLT prioritizes the acquisition of land which adjoins existing conservation land. These “wildlife corridors” are critical to ensuring the future of our native species.

According to US Fish and Wildlife, wild animals need to move along safe routes to complete their life cycles. These wildlife corridors are vital to connecting and maintaining safe travel routes for birds, fish and mammals over their life spans.

“It’s unusual to have that much land, especially in south Central Massachusetts,” Kirkland remarked of the 1000 acre parcel.

Naturally, over the course of the past 200 years, the Slater Woods land has reverted back to its natural state and the DCLT intends to leave it that way.

There is a trail system from Dudley Oxford Road right to Peter Pond that’s about a 2 ½ mile hike round-trip, Kirkland said, adding that in time the DCLT will work with Mass Audubon to cut a spur trail to give hikers additional access to the pond.



**BIG KAHUNA
CAR WASH
WELCOME!**

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¢






**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**




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

Skip Munroe Retires from Mac's Auto Repair in Webster

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

It's been a 37-year journey of A+ customer service and auto and truck fixes at Mac's Auto Repair for many satisfied customers in the greater Webster area but now it's time for Skip to retire and relax, can you believe it? Well, neither can Skip Munroe, one of the most



friendly and detail-oriented Auto Service Managers in our area as he said farewell to the hundreds of customers and friends he's made along the way to his retirement on Friday, April 26. When Mr. Francis Marcoux, the previous owner of Mac's Auto Repair, hired Skip all those many years ago, he hired the best of the best. "I've enjoyed meeting with and assisting our customers with one of the most valuable

assets they have, their car or truck," said Skip, "it's how they get around, it's extremely important for us to listen to what their concerns are and to fix their vehicles to the best of our abilities."

Mac's Auto Repair fixes just about anything that can go wrong with your vehicle. They are greatly skilled at what they do and use the latest diagnostic technology to make it right. Their shop and their four highly-trained auto techs know their business inside and out. They've seen it all. They service just about any vehicle from state inspection stickers to oil changes to replacing engines and transmissions. From alignments to brakes to tune-ups and wheel bearings and axles to emission control devices. They'll use the latest equipment including a mechanic's stethoscope to pinpoint noise sources from engines, differentials, transmissions, and bearings. Transmission rebuilds aren't part of their offerings however.

You can make your appointments on-line or in-person by phoning them to describe in better detail what your needs are. They still have the personal touch at Mac's where you are welcomed to come in and define your vehicle's requirements. The shop accepts all major credit cards including Apple Pay and also offers a NAPA extended-payment program as they are an authorized NAPA repair facility.

At the tender age of 32, Skip accepted his current position and has been enjoying customer rapport and interaction for the past (almost) four decades. Quite an interesting time frame these days when compared to the younger generations who job hop every few years!

He began his appreciation of engine mechanics at a young age when he was allowed to disassemble and reassemble his family's lawn mowers. It was all ascending from there. His skills intensified and modified as he grew more experienced working at his uncle's garage in Berlin MA where he

stayed for 10 years honing his craft. He did well, later working for a few other facilities and landing permanently in Webster all those 37 short years ago. The Marcoux family owned the Shell gasoline station on East Main Street in Webster where Wendy's fast-food restaurant now stands. The auto repair shop moved

down the street to the corner of East Main and Slater Streets when the Shell station and the Marcoux's parted company.

"I've stayed at Mac's all these

RETIREMENT
continued on page 4

BUSINESS BANKING DESIGNED FOR YOU

Our flexible checking and savings accounts and services are designed to help you leverage your cash flow and grow your business.

Chat with Howie, our Business Banking expert who has over 20 years of banking experience in helping local businesses succeed.



Howard Carney
Business Development Officer
Phone/Text: 508-765-7319
Email: hcarney@saversbank.com

Savers Bank
Simply Better.

Member FDIC
Member DIF



LEBLANC OIL LLC
508-248-1444
24 HOUR SERVICE

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Licensed in House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
- Automatic Delivery
- Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)
- Fuel Assistance Accepted
- Burner Service

We do NOT add biofuel to our product

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

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF OIL

OF 175 GALLONS OR MORE

Must present coupon. Offer cannot be combined.

OFFICE LOCATION: 34 NEWMAN AVE., SOUTHBRIDGE

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 6-20-24

Dine-in and Take-out Always Available

Online orders with pickup or delivery

41 Worcester Road, Webster, MA • 508-461-5070

Facebook.com/MexicalisFreshMex Like Us!

NICHOLS

continued from page 1

bicentennial campaign, Securing a Legacy of Leadership, which raised \$66 million to support capital

projects, endowment and brand-elevating curricular and co-curricular initiatives. The campaign was the largest in the College's history, generating a record number of multimillion-dollar gifts, and far

surpassed the campaign's initial goal of \$45 million.

Under President Pieczynski's leadership, Nichols has set new standards for overall giving, President's Society giving, giving percentage and number of donors. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in securing contributions to support new building projects. Among them are the Fels Student Center, Nichols Innovation Center and major renovations and upgrades to athletic facilities and Lombard Dining Hall. The number of endowed scholarships rose from 16 to 98. In addition, the College has received numerous major gifts for new experiential learning programs such as the Nichols Consulting Group, the student-managed Thunder Fund, the Center for Intelligent Process Automation and co-curricular initiatives such as the Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D.,

Institute for Women's Leadership and the Emerging Leaders Program.

"To lead Nichols College is a tremendous honor and I am excited to assume the presidency at such a pivotal time in this institution's long and storied history," said President Pieczynski. "We offer something special at Nichols—a highly relevant, hands-on education that prepares students for lives of meaning, purpose and success after graduation. As a member of this community for the past 18 years, I care deeply about Nichols and its people, and am confident of the role I can play in fostering a campus culture that reflects our values, takes advantage of our unique strengths and advances the College's mission."

Appointment was announced by the Nichols College Board of Trustees

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

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.

VISA MasterCard **www.amplisound.com** f

ED STEARNS
 Dressed Meats Inc.

IT'S GRILLING SEASON

B. \$50.00 BUNDLE

- 5 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN THIGHS OR
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
- 2 LBS. HAMBURG OR
- 3 LBS. GROUND TURKEY
- 2 LBS. STEW BEEF OR
- 1 LARGE CONTAINER OF BEEF OR CHICKEN CHILI
- 1 WHOLE OR CUT UP CHICKEN (3 LBS. AVERAGE) OR
- 1 PKG. OF SAUSAGE (1-1/2 LB.) OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 PORK TENDERLOIN OR
- 1 LB. OF OUR BACON OF YOUR CHOICE

C. \$75.00 BUNDLE

- 7 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS OR
- 2 LBS. HAMBURG
- 3 LBS. BONELESS PORK RIBS OR
- 1 PACKAGE (1-1/2 LB) NY SIRLOIN STEAK
- 3 LBS. PORK CHOPS OR
- 1-1/2 LB. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAK
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN THIGHS OR
- 2 LB. HOT DOGS
- 3 LB. HAM STEAK OR
- 1 LARGE BEEF OR CHICKEN CHILI
- 1 PKG. (1-1/2 LB.) OF SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE OR
- 1 PKG. OF MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST (OF YOUR CHOICE)

Other Meat Bundles Available
 27 Worcester Road, (Rte. 20) Charlton, MA
www.EdStearnsDressedMeats.com
508-248-7866

2022 BEST OF WELFARE AWARDS

5 YEARS IN A ROW FIRST PLACE BEST BUTCHER SHOP

NO SUBSTITUTIONS. PLEASE ORDER IN ADVANCE

Store Hours
 Open 9AM - 4PM
 Tues. 9AM - 4PM
 Wed. 9AM - 4PM
 Thur. 9AM - 5PM
 Fri. 9AM - 5PM
 Sat. 9AM - 3PM

VISA MasterCard SNAP

RETIREMENT

continued from page 3

years because it was a great place to work," said Mr. Munroe, "and Fran Marcoux was very good to me. I've gone through several major health issues and I'm extremely grateful to Fran for providing financially to my family. I can't think of any other place of this size that would pay my salary when I was out for major health issues." Mr. Marcoux has a heart of gold for sure.

"I truly enjoy talking with our customers and doing a job well and well done," said Skip, "when a vehicle leaves this shop, we know it's been fixed correctly and stand behind our work." Skip's dad was a diesel mechanic and Skip always enjoyed working on cars.

A recent occurrence at Mac's happened when Mike Lees, current owner and technician, was working on a car that was on the lift. As

Mike removed the skid plate (a shield that absorbs the impact of rocks and other obstacles under the car), a large live rabbit fell out onto the garage floor. They immediately opened one of the bay doors and the rabbit scampered out. Some of their biggest projects, according to Skip, have been motor changes as in blown head gaskets and lack of oil. They remove and replace the top of the engine after replacing the gasket.

"I've had the pleasure of knowing four generations of families coming here for their everyday oil changes and tune-ups," said Skip, "sometimes when vehicle owners come in for an inspection sticker their vehicles aren't up to the inspection standards and we'll educate them about what the needs are to be road-safe. We had a customer come in whose vehicle did not pass inspection due to a hole in the exhaust equipment. After we explained the safety hazards

of carbon monoxide entering the passenger cabin and repaired the problem, he understood, and is now a long-time customer."

In retirement, Skip hopes to enjoy more motorcycle rides, working around the house including tending to his garden, his three grandchildren with another on the way, and his new 28-foot recreational vehicle. Trips to Maine and Pennsylvania to visit family are in the near future. He also hopes to become involved in volunteer activities like the Meals-on-Wheels program. Of course, when his family's vehicles need regular service, he'll be paying a visit to Mac's Auto Repair.

Enjoy your retirement, Skip, we'll all miss you!

Mac's Auto Repair, www.macsaautorepairwebster.com 77 East Main Street, Webster MA 01570. Phone: (508) 943-2068. Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

f www.accorddaycenter.com



Scanlon Updates and Renovates – Nicely Done

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Funeral homes are not often thought of as places of simple but graceful design, but the owners of Scanlon Funeral Home located at 38 East Main Street, Webster have recently completed a stunning and tasteful renovation that will be very much appreciated by those who choose to utilize their facility. Roland

The large viewing room to the back of the home has undergone a polished transformation complete with a vaulted cathedral ceiling, finely-crafted woodwork, and a modest viewing backdrop. The room can accommodate 60 guests and has been completely updated to include stained glass windows from the former Lutheran Church on Lincoln Street, diffused ceiling lighting, soft carpeting, subtle wall tints to

ing. There are no heavy draperies to be seen just lightness and clean lines making for an uncluttered and pleasant look.

“I had been reviewing other establishments across the country,” said John Hickey, “and I noticed that many backdrops were not draped anymore. I felt that a custom paneled backdrop would be more current so we took our new design from the woodwork in the front of the house and it made for simple and clean lines that were more appropriate. This building was built in 1840 and much of the woodwork was dark-stained. We opted to go with lighter colors like the ivory and subtle greens that matched the hallway wall covering. We chose the rug with the same idea to give the room a more welcoming atmosphere.” They have truly succeeded.

Malboeuf and Hickey are the owners of not only the Scanlon Funeral Home, but also the Sitkowski, Malboeuf, and Hickey Funeral establishment located at 340 School Street in Webster. They are consummate professionals who proudly serve their customers’ needs in the best way possible. They have many years of funeral planning experience from memorial notices to liturgy

planning. They give their utmost attention to every detail that is

SCANLON
continued on page 7



Malboeuf and John Hickey have designed a fine-looking accommodation.

match the hallway wall coverings, and custom woodwork to complement the existing panel-



*Scanlon
Funeral Service*

Roland P. Malboeuf & John P. Hickey, Directors of Funerals

*Rooted in history,
ready for the future.*

38 East Main Street, Webster MA 01570
Phone: (508) 943-1298

CLOSE MY PORCH IN

Do you have a porch with ripped screens **.COM**
or have to staple plastic up to **KEEP THE WEATHER OUT?**

EZE-BREEZE PORCH PANELS

**LET THE
BREEZE IN!**

**\$100
OFF WITH
THIS AD!**
4 PANEL MINIMUM



PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

508-889-6363

propertyproconstruction.com

EZE-Breeze is a 4 track 10-mil vinyl glazing that gives the benefit of glass without the cost or weight. its as transparent as glass but not as heavy. Or expensive. Or susceptible to cracking or breaking. if accidentally pushed or distorted, the tough 10-mil will return to its original shape withing minutes.

FREE ESTIMATE!

WE DO DECKS TOO!!!

CUSTOM SIZES

Programs & Events @ the Pearle L. Crawford (Dudley) Library

40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley
08-949-8021

Join us for one of our programs
at the Pearle!

To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021

Get your Yard Ready for Summer

Hummingbird Feeders
Bird Baths
and Much More!
The Orioles are Back!

*The Bird Store
and more...*

4 Cedar Street, Sturbridge, MA
508-347-BIRD

www.TheBirdStoreandMore.com

facebook

GENTLE YOGA

Mondays in May
10:00-11:00 in the Fels Community Room

Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

YOGA

Thursday, May 2
6:00-7:00 in the Fels Community Room

Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

NANCY DREW PRESENTATION

Thursday, May 9
6:30-7:45

Come learn about the history of the beloved sleuth Nancy Drew! At this presentation, you will learn about the many different editions that have been printed since the Nancy Drew series was first published in the 1930s, as well as surprising facts about the series.

The presenter, Alicia Mello, is a passionate collector and expert on Nancy Drew.

Bring your Nancy Drew books and your memories to share with the group. Mello will be able to tell you about your book and also its potential value. She has been collecting Nancy Drew books and other items for 20 years and loves to talk about the history of Nancy Drew! She will bring some interesting pieces from her collection. All welcome, and all ages are welcome.

Funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

THE BASICS OF BEE KEEPING

Saturday, May 11
10:00—11:30

Join local beekeeper and Worcester County Beekeeping Association member John Hedly for a presentation about the basics of beekeeping.

Presentation will include topics such as starting a beehive, the honey bee colony, chores inside and outside of the hive, collecting honey, the importance of pollination, and more!

John graduated from the Worcester County Beekeepers Association (WCBA) bee school in 2009 and has been a Beekeeper for 15 years. Nominated for Beekeeper of the Year two times by the WCBA, John continues to mentor new beekeepers and share his expertise with many organizations throughout Massachusetts. He is currently a two-term member of the WCBA Board of Directors.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library.

MAHJONG LESSON 1

Wednesday, May 15
10:00—11:30

Fels Community Room
Come learn the basics of Mahjong, classes will focus on the history of the game, learning the tiles, understanding the card, making hands, and learning the American rules, strategies, and sequence of play.

Please register for this program.
Funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

FRAN FLYNN MAGICIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

Saturday, May 18
11:00-12:00

Fels Community Room
The "Family Fun Magic Show" will entertain both children and adults. This show will feature audience participation, highly visual comedy magic, plenty of laughs! Family fun for all ages!!

CRAWFORD LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Monday, May 20
6:00-7:30

Book: The Priory of the Orange Tree

Author: Samantha Shannon
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion. No registration required.

*Meeting fourth Monday of each month.

MAHJONG LESSON 2

Wednesday, May 22
10:00—11:30

Fels Community Room
Come learn the basics of Mahjong, classes will focus on the history of the game, learning the tiles, understanding the card, making hands, and learning the American rules, strategies, and sequence of play.

Please register for this program.
Funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

PEARLE'S PICKING PARLOR JAM

A "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session

1st Saturday of every month
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Room

This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners on up!

Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

New England Steak & Seafood Restaurant

Make Your Mother's Day Reservations NOW!

9 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 12:00 noon | 2:30 p.m. | 5:00 p.m. |
| 12:30 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| 1:00 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. | 6:00 p.m. |

Route 16, Mendon • 508-473-5079 | 508-478-0871
www.nesteakandseafood.com

TOM BERKOWITZ TRUCKING, INC.

Est. 1980

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

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

www.tomberkowitztruckinginc.com • info@berkowitztrucking.com

SCANLON

continued from page 5

necessary and customer requested. Of course, listening to their client's concerns takes their highest priority from simple planning to more elaborate accommodations.

The Scanlon house was built in 1840 by Horatio Nelson Slater and the rear addition was built in 1888 complete with Greek revival woodwork which has since been updated.

Mr. Malboeuf formerly chose the seminarian's life which he opted not to pursue. He was also a music instructor and organist for St. Louis Church in Webster. When Mr. Hickey's family wanted John to begin music lessons, Roland became his instructor. The two men became associates in the local funeral business when John developed



an interest in the profession. In 1984, Roland was employed by the Sitkowski Funeral Home and it was here that John began his introduction to the profession.

Many people say that the closest occupation to being a member of the clergy is that of a funeral director because the

clergy person hears from all his followers and a funeral director assists families at one of their most emotional times when those emotions are at their highest level. "What you need is someone who is kind and good to you. My seminarian training taught me to think of others instead of myself," said Mr. Malboeuf, "My outlook is to assist families in need during their most difficult time and to listen to their wishes and thoughts."

"Discretion is our highest priority," said Mr. Hickey, "we are here to listen, to offer advice, and to be there for them when they are experiencing a very difficult time in their lives. We will accommodate them to the best of our abilities."

Scanlon Funeral Services, 38 East Main Street, Webster MA 01570. Phone: (508) 943-1298. www.websterfunerals.com

OXFORD SPRING
CARNIVAL

AMUSEMENTS, RIDES AND GAMES

May 16 - 19

Thurs. - Fri: 6 pm - 10 pm
Sat.: 12 pm - 10 pm; Sun: 12 pm - 6 pm



Next to the Town Common, Rte. 12 • Oxford, MA

LIBRARY

continued from page 6

QUILTING GROUP

Wednesdays @ 1:30PM
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursday 5:30PM - 7:30PM and
Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

Come play the world's number one role playing game.

This program geared towards kids that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

TODDLER STORYTIME

Tuesdays at 10:30
Join Miss Courtney on Tuesday mornings for age-appropriate stories on a fun theme, followed by a simple craft.
For ages 15 months-3 years.

PRE-K STORYTIME

Wednesdays at 10:30
Join Miss Courtney on Wednesday mornings for age-appropriate stories on a fun theme, followed by a simple craft. For ages 3-6.

GUEST READER STORY TIME

Mondays at 6:00pm through May
Each week there will be a guest reader along with activities.
We are excited to welcome our guest readers!

Take a tour and receive a **FREE gift**

OPEN HOUSE



*restrictions apply



Ask about Tri-Valley's C.A.R.E. grant and get up to 3 days FOR FREE

The Accord Adult Day Center is committed to providing professional and compassionate Adult Day Health Services to our participants and their family/caregivers.

The Accord Adult Day Health program offers an array of health related, personal care, recreational, and other supportive services. (Transportation is available)

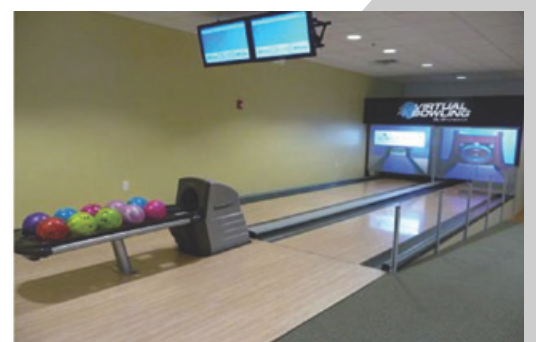


Sat. May 18th

10.00AM - 1:00PM

SPONSORED BY:

**10 Cudworth Road
Webster, MA 01570
(508) 949-3598**



SPORTS

Three-Time Captain Hoping to Play on the Next Level

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up Peter Lavache always found himself either watching baseball with his father or out in the yard playing catch, leading him to an obvious love of the game. In addition to Little League, he also played AAU Baseball for the Strike Zone out of Worcester, Senior Babe Ruth for Douglas and was part of their traveling All-Star team.

Lavache was also playing basketball, but following his sophomore season at Bartlett High School he dropped the sport to focus solely on his baseball career.

"I truly love the game of baseball and play it all year round. It is definitely something that I want to do in college," he said. "I am going to Quinsigamond Community College to start and get the experience while getting bigger and stronger and then moving on to play at a higher level."

Upon arriving at Bartlett High School, Lavache knew that he wanted to play baseball for the Indians, but didn't realize what he was in for. As a varsity starter he soon found the high school game was something totally different, and he had to quickly adjust if he wanted to continue to be there. He would also play just about any position on the field.

"It really was a big change for



Peter Lavanche plays every position but catcher for Bartlett High School

me. I had to go through a lot of failing to get where I am today," Lavache said. "I see myself as a utility player and will play anywhere but catcher. I gave the position a shot and it just wasn't my thing, but I'll play anywhere else."

As a sophomore he found himself primarily playing third base or shortstop for Bartlett, but it was being named a team captain that year that really surprised the young athlete. Since the original honor, he has been a three-time captain for the Bartlett baseball team.

"It was such a big honor. I wanted to go out and look out for the team, while being selfless player.



Being a captain taught me a lot, I was put into a spot as a younger player who was not as mature as some of the other players," he said. Going on to be a three-time captain was defiantly a surprise as it is something that is unheard of in high school sports. There were guys on the team who had been on the team longer with more experience. My parent really helped me

with the mental aspect and being respectful while staying positive."

Bartlett Head Coach Keith Sebastyasnki noted that as a sophomore Lavache had the skills to play the game but not the size or muscle, but he was willing to put in the hours to improve.

"He was an extra hard worker that went above and beyond to get better. Over the last two year he's been able to build his body and

Although his base stealing is impressive, his discipline at the plate is phenomenal. Last season he found himself in the top 5 in Central mass in hitting with a .526 batting average with 30 hits, eight for extra bases while knocking in 14 runs. Lavache also had 8 walks and only 2 strikeouts batting either leadoff or in the two hole for the Indians.

This year, although he started off slow, the senior captain is currently hitting .400 at the time of this writing with 8 hits (4 extra base hits), 5 RBI and only 1 strike-out.

"Peter is a very disciplined kid at the plate and possess good speed on the bases," Sebastyasnki said. "He is very knowledgeable and the complete player. This year he is leading a team of 2 juniors, 4 sophomores and 2 freshmen."

Lavache credits his discipline to studying the opposition.



"Everyone has their own approach, but I find myself as an average hitter; base hits and line drives through the holes in the field," he said. "I watch and research the opposing pitcher so once I step into the box I'm ready to go though my mind to determine what they might throw and when. I get a feel for their patterns and react to the situation thrown at me."

Entering this, his final high school season, before leaving for college Lavache is looking to help the team improve over the last few

add strength," the coach said. "Peter is one of those kids that took it upon himself to be a leader; having played baseball since he was four or five he showed the leadership on and off the field."

In addition to being a three-time captain Lavache has developed his game on the basepaths as well as at the plate. Once he gets on base the Indian infielder has learned a knack of reading the opposing pitchers knowing when he has the opportunity to steal a base. Last spring, the then junior was able to swipec 10 bases and so far, in the early goings this year, he has already stolen another three bases.

BASEBALL
continued on page 9

Wilbraham & Monson Academy

At Home. In the World.

Rebecca '25

Worcester native

- Volleyball, Wrestling, Rugby
- Asian Student Alliance, French Club, Titans4Change, Future Health Titans, Black Student Union, Podcast Club
- Sings National Anthem at games
- Creative Writing & Oil Painting

At Home. Using her Voice.

Schedule a tour:
www.wma.us/tour
Grades 6-12, PG



COMPLIMENTARY INFANT ORAL EXAM

- Guidance on breastfeeding
- Pacifier use
- Guidance on fluoride use
- Oral hygiene
- Infant diet

CONTACT US

FOR FIRST FREE EXAM FOR CHILDREN 24 MONTHS OR YOUNGER

508-366-0122

Brushfloss.com

Westborough and Grafton

When making your appointment, mention where you saw this ad to receive a free infant oral exam!



WDBA raises funds for Boys & Girls Club

The Webster-Dudley Business Alliance is proud to announce their donation of \$3,500 to the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley, raised

tives from the Boys & Girls Club as well as local business owners were in attendance. This is the 2nd Annual Comedy Fundraiser presented by Funny4Funds, an

The WDBA, formed in 2006, is dedicated to actively promoting and supporting its membership through various programs and events, and encouraging public



through a comedy show fundraiser held on March 16 at the Polish American Citizens Club in Webster. The official check was presented at a Spring Networking Event held on April 11 at the Rose Room Cafe, 4 East Main Street in Webster. Representa-

organization based in Rhode Island that partners with other groups to raise funds for various causes. Thanks to all who attended comedy show as well as to our show sponsors, who were gratefully acknowledged on a banner on stage during the show.

support of local businesses. For more information about future events or for business membership opportunities, visit www.thewdba.org or call 508-943-9106.

BASEBALL

continued from page 8

years. As a freshmen Bartlett was only able to secure one win, the following year they improved to two wins and last year was able to secure 8 wins. The senior would love nothing more than to lead this team to a plus .500 season and qualify for the tournament.

"Getting the team into the States and making a run would be the ideal way to go out," Lavache said. "But the main thing is to do it while having fun."

Individually, the senior is just looking to continue to being a strong player for his team. He has no goals set for himself statistically wise, he is only hoping to make everyone around him better while helping his team get into the State Tournament.

"Honestly, I never thought about getting to this stage as a youngster playing baseball," he said. "Over the past couple of years, I have focused on improving and growing as a baseball player and to see the results have really surprised me."

No matter what happens at Bartlett this spring, Lavache knows that he put everything that he had into the baseball program to make it better and hopefully bring it into a new era.

AP Mandella Landscaping

STUMP GRINDING
Chip Removal • LOAM & SEED

Free Estimates Fully Insured



Small Backhoe Services

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

EIGHTYATES BISTRO

MUST PRESENT COUPON

BUY 1 ENTRÉE

GET ADDITIONAL ENTRÉE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR

HALF PRICE!

AVAILABLE FOR 88 MINUTES MONDAY-SUNDAY 4:00 TO 5:28PM
RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. ONE COUPON PER TABLE. NOT APPLICABLE WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS, SPECIALS OR DISCOUNTS. EXPIRES 5/31/24 **YXS**

172 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA
508-949-8888 • WWW.EIGHTYATES.COM

ALEXANDER'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

•Family-Owned •Repairs & Tune-Ups
•Walk-Behinds •Riding Mowers •Garden Tractors

32 Boston Road, Sutton, MA
(508) 917-8787 • www.alexandersrepair.com



Mobile Lawn & Garden Tractor Maintenance



•Spring & Fall Equipment Changeovers
•Blade Sharpening
•Knowledge on all mower brands
•Also servicing snowblowers and UTVs

774-276-8830 Millbury, MA
Jon Cammuso • ready-mow@yahoo.com

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!

C S LUMBER
CO., INC.

Family Owned And Operated Since 1952

124 Main St., Millbury

cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822

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



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

please phone back later.

After another few hours and another phone call, I learned she was resting comfortably and that they

Exile

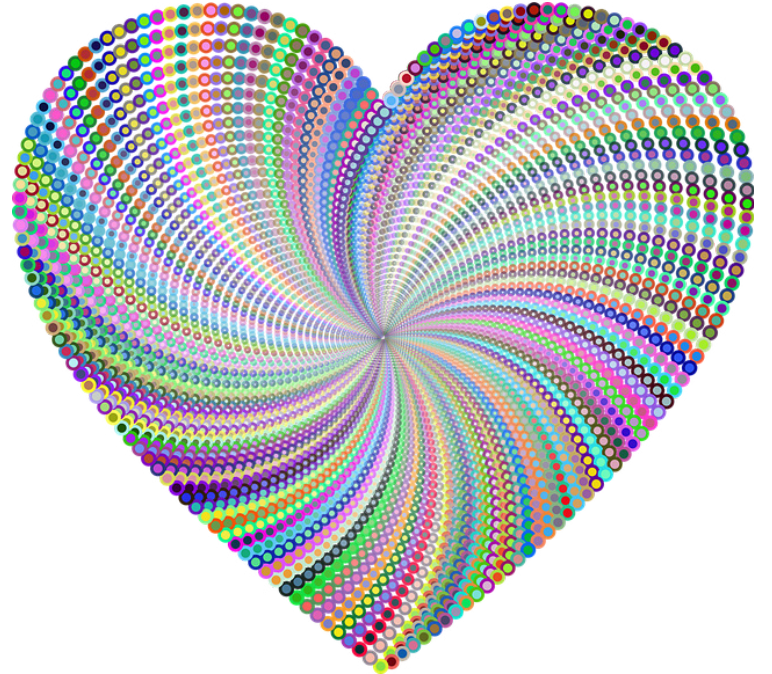
VAPOR

772 Quinebaug Rd., Quinebaug, CT 06262
(860) 497-0097
ExileVaporCT@gmail.com

Conveniently located a few hundred feet from the MA border

Always fully stocked with **FLAVORED** dispos, e-liquid and ALL coils and pods!

Same great service and knowledge as my previous store, Bay State Vapor from Auburn, MA



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

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

CARING

continued on page 11

Austin Furniture



Vintage Home Furnishings, Decor & More

Buy/Sell • New/Used

75 Webster Street, Worcester, MA • 508-795-7400

Worcester's "go-to" spot for great deals on great furniture for over 20 years



Now in our new and bigger location

HUGE SELECTION and we deliver!

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

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



CARING

continued from page 10

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 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 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.

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

FLAT RATE PLUMBING



Valley Plumbing

...or by the hour.

- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- GAS FITTING
- WATER HEATERS

BIG OR SMALL,
WE DO IT ALL...

10% Discount
for Veterans, Seniors
& Disabled People

Richard J. Wunschel

508-234-3649

30 Lackey Dam Road
Sutton, MA 01590
MASTER PLUMBER LIC. NO. 9216

Take
\$50.00 OFF
1st Job for Plumbing*

ONE COUPON PER HOUSEHOLD
*Discount taken when job is completed

\$50 OFF

KEEP THIS COUPON
NO EXPIRATION

\$50 OFF



LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

A Two-Year-Old Luke Learns to Communicate

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

A dog's expression is one of my favorite dog qualities. That they love unconditionally, forgive easily, and offer us undivided attention goes without saying. But the unique way in which a dog expresses himself, and thereby communicates, defines a dog's personality. Have you ever noticed how Dog People brag with fellow Dog People about their pets? "That's Buster. He's having his first ice cream cone." Proud owners scroll through cell phone pictures and tell stories. "That's my Summer with my granddaughter. Isn't she beautiful?" Dog stories unravel out of pure appreciation and love for a dog's unique personality. Luke's expressions, admittedly, have made me gush.

SENSITIVE LUKE

Though bittersweet (this one

breaks my heart) I adore the way Luke has learned to beg from a safe distance, so that he's not a bother to us. I've owned numerous dogs. All have drooled shamelessly at my



heels. Luke is different. Luke will watch my family congregate and sit down for a meal, then move to another room to wait for us to finish. I can't help but pop up from the table to visit him during such times. "Luke, you are such a good boy. Mummy is so proud of you." He lifts his head seriously, as though to say, "I'm fine. Go on and finish. I only eat twice a day, while you shovel down six small meals, but go ahead, I'll wait my turn."

SNUGGLY LUKE

Nothing quite compares to Luke's snuggling expression while resting on the couch with

us. Nestled in the crook of my husband's arm, or on my son's chest, he rests with the ease of a dog loved. After losing Lincoln, we struggled to envision snuggling with another. After all, Lincoln was the king. The thought of hugging another Golden didn't seem fair to my partner-in-crime, a dog who rested his sweet head on my lap in the backseat of a black Infinity after refusing to leave my side to go into the vet's room (despite



Covid restrictions) on his last day. Dogs know. Every so often, Luke nods to the ceiling for no reason. What's up there, Luke? I can't help but wonder if he senses Lincoln looking down on him as though to say, "Take care of my people, little Luke." One dog doesn't cancel out the love for the next. Rather, dog love is doubled.

Luke entered our home only two years ago. It's hard to imagine life without him now. We've collected more dog hairs, messes, and mishaps, but our lives are full. The opportunity to snuggle with a live FAO Schwarz teddy supersedes an immaculate home. Add the freshly groomed scent of his aloe shampoo (when he doesn't rub it off in the yard), and we're officially healed! We trade off perfection for the injection of a dog's unconditional support and love. Luke, notably, is the first dog allowed up on our couch. What were we thinking back then?

FEROCIOUS LUKE

This expression, fiercely juxtaposed with that of the teddy bear, takes me by surprise. Especially when, yet again, Luke throws a tantrum over the rush of hose water. Most of my dogs have loved water play. Nothing new here. Yet none have attacked the hose with



a temper like Luke's. The dog is certifiably crazy when he sees the rush of hose water. I've had to be strategic while outside in the garden. I've tried to water flowers in peace, changing the nozzle setting to that of a soft, sprinkling shower. Harmony. I wave the hose innocently over a few plants, but I'm not subtle enough. Detective Luke senses what's happening. He rushes at me, a dog in a bullfight costume, and bucks the wavering direction of the hose. He springs up and darts at the stream as though protecting the entire planet from rushing water. He shakes water droplets off his mane and hacks like a crazy dog. "Bring it on, Hose!" The scene is absurd. The image of a Dog Trainer dressed in a monogrammed blue jacket flashes through my mind. "Leave it, Luke!" He disobeys. "Don't screw with me, Nozzle!" I lose my patience and use the hose as a gun to spray his face. "Luke, please!" The aggression inflates his male ego. He throws his big head into the rush of water and air-bites the bubbles. A drive-by sighting just may have both of us committed, I resort to a sorry defense. "Go ahead." I let Luke win. The hose rests lifelessly on the grass. I watch its power melt like the wicked witch reduced to a hat alone. Luke hovers over the bubbler and takes a drink.

INTELLIGENT LUKE

Luke is a thinker. His thoughtful expressions, and the careful way in which he tilts his head and stares up at me to communicate his needs, touches my heart. How remarkable! —that Dog and Hu-

man can have an entire non-verbal conversation.

"Hi Momma. I have something on my mind."

"Hi Luke. Do you want to Go Sit on the steps?"

"That's exactly what I was thinking."

"Do you want me to Bring your Bone, Luke?"

"Are you serious?" His expression stills again.

"Do you want Mummy to Go Get it?" (I trade-off enabling a Luke that's no longer a baby, for the joy of meeting his dog needs).

"Look, Luke! Mummy brought your bone!" I emphasize my support.

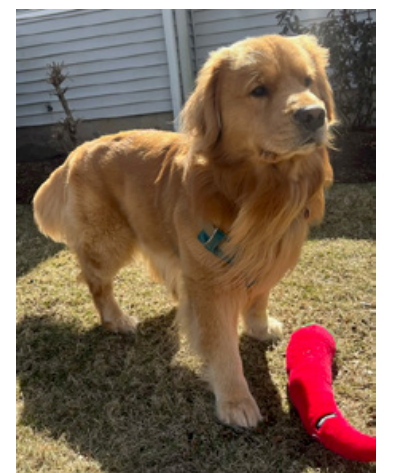
Teddy Bear Luke stares up at me. He wants something more.

"Do you want some peanut butter on the bone, Luke?"

"Momma- you are so smart! That's exactly what I had in mind, too!"

WATCH-DOG LUKE

Whether it's to protect my family, police the hood, or keep the bunnies in line, Luke's watch-dog abilities are extraordinary. I've learned to listen to my dog's watchful expressions, along with their bark-tones throughout the



years. Dogs sense what we cannot. Granted, Luke can be overly sensitive. I once opened the front door to respond to Luke's bark. A van pulled up to the front of my neighbor's lot across the street. "Luke, that's just the Repair Main. It's okay." He looked up at me, then back at the van, to voice a final opinion. "I don't buy it."

WWW.TLCPETHAVEN.COM

Over 30 years in Business Denise and Bill Jones

Dog and Cat Grooming & Boarding

Luxury Suites Available

Doggie Daycare

In-Home Services Available

PET HAVEN & Mobile Groom-In-Vans

68 US Route 146, Sutton MA • 508-865-3180

•Boarding •Grooming •Daycare

We cater to dogs and cats Nail Trims \$15

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.

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**

LUKE
continued on page 15

REAL ESTATE

What you really need to know about home prices

Almost one four in four people still think home prices are going to come down. If you're one of the people worried about that, here's what you need to know. A lot of that fear is probably coming from what you're hearing in the media or reading online. But here's the thing to remember. Negative news sells. That means,



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

you may not be getting the full picture. You may only be getting bit of it to get your attention. Housing market headlines are everywhere.

Many are quite sensational, ending with exclamation points or predicting impending doom for the industry. The sensationalizing of headlines and content, has been an issue since the dawn of the internet, and housing news is not immune to it

From January 2023 to January 2024, there have been 11 months that home values have increased .2 percent to .9 percent. In two of the 13-month look, we had slight reductions at an average of -0.1 percent! This is what the media focuses on. They publish a graph of red for the declines and green for the increases. It depends on what you are drawn to. Home values rose the majority of the year, that is the story! Since negative news sells, drawing attention to these slight dips happens often. But that loses sight of the bigger picture.

Here's what this data really says. There are a lot more increases and decreases. And even for the two decreases, they're so slight, they're practically flat. If you look at the year as a whole, home prices still rose overall.

It's perfectly normal in the housing market for home price growth to slow down in the winter. That's because fewer people move during the holidays and at the start of the year, so there's not as much upward pressure on home prices during that time. That's why, you see the lower home values in the range I gave you above. The data shows that, as a whole, home prices rose over the past year. If you have questions about what's happening with home prices in your local area, contact The Marzeotti Group or with a trusted real estate professional.

Alfred Ernest Beland, USAF is Grand Marshal of Webster/Dudley Parade

On Monday, May 27, Memorial Day will be observed in Webster and Dudley with a parade stopping at cemeteries to honor deceased veterans.

Grand Marshal Alfred Beland will be at the forefront of the



marchers. He is a native of Oxford, a Webster resident, graduate of Worcester Boys Vocational and six year veteran of the United States Air Force.

Due to his vocational experience and his high aptitude test scores, Al's specialty was Aircraft Engine Repair and Maintenance. Airman Beland's orders were to begin training in southwest Michigan at the re-activated Kincheloe AFB, an F102 Fighter Base. He continued taking extra courses during his



off-duty hours.

After Airman Beland completed his training on Repair and Maintenance in Michigan he hopped on a flight to Spain, settling in at Zaragoza, a Spanish facility used by the United States as part of the Madrid Pact. Al was getting pretty familiar with the F-102's of the Red Devil Squadron while fulfilling his obligation to NATO and the USAF.

Immediately after a personal tragedy back home, Al was transferred to Westover Field where he accepted a Compassionate Change of Assignment. The remainder of his enlistment, plus an extension ordered by the President because of the Vietnam War, was served at Westover AFB, 99th, B-52 Bomber Wing, Strategic Air Command.



Mark Marzeotti
REALTOR®

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

945 W Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606



Diane Luong
CBR, SRES, MBA
774-239-2937

&

JoAnn Szymczak
GRI, SRES, CBR
774-230-5044


RE/MAX
Advantage I

Together, We're
Working For You!

Providing Real Estate Needs For:


- Retirees
- Seniors
- 1st Time Buyers
- Empty Nesters
- Waterfront Buyers
- Families
- Veterans
- Military
- Investors
- And more

Looking for friendly, responsive, easy to talk to Realtors? You found us!



43 East Main St., Webster
Office: 508.943.4333
Fax: 860.935.5624
Cell: 508.525.0611
Web: hope2own.com
Email: lsullivan@hope2own.com


Laurie Sullivan
REALTOR
Licensed in MA & CT
REAL ESTATE ON THE RISE!




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



50 Years Real Estate Experience



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.countrysidedoors.com email: countrysidedoors@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

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

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

Over 40 years in business

catacchio
AUTO DETAIL

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

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"

COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

ROY'S GLASS

- 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

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

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Blinded by the Light

Q. I have a 2011 Nissan Frontier. I noticed recently that the engine fan is running constantly. It used to kick on when



BY JOHN PAUL

needed for cooling and air conditioning purposes. As I'm pretty sure that they are all electric now, where is the switch or sensor located? I would assume that when it becomes defective, it would go to default mode and just stay on as opposed to dangerously not running at all.

A. The fan in your Nissan and similar to many other vehicles has multiple speeds. The computer controls the fan speed based on information from the temperature sensor. Unlike some other vehicles that use a separate temperature sensor for the fan and one for the computer, Nissan only lists one sensor. The sensor, relays (there are two), wiring or fan itself could be the problem. A technician with a scan

tool will be able to read the temperature data as well as command the fan to turn on and off. This will help verify which components are working.

Q. I am tired of being blinded by headlights. I have been driving for 50 years and these new cars have headlights that are just too bright. What can be done about this, they should be illegal.

A. It is interesting that most of the complaints I get about bright headlights are from the people who can benefit most from being able to see better at night. At 60 years of age, we need three times as much light to see as when we were 20. I have evaluated thousands of vehicles in the past 40 years and there are certainly good and bad headlight designs. In addition to glare, as humans are eyes are drawn to the brighter light, so when we see a brighter headlight, we tend to stare at it. Just like needing more light to see as we age, we also need more time to adjust to the glare. Back prior to 1980 or so most cars had standard incandescent headlights, then cars switched to halogen lamps, and people complained. The issue was solved quickly, since halogen headlights were relatively inexpensive, and many drivers upgraded to halogens. Then brighter Xenon or HID lights started showing up, these were a very expensive option in luxury cars. Now HID lights are being replaced with LED lights and that is where part of the problem is. Many drivers buy aftermarket LED replacement bulbs, these bulbs can be very bright and are not legal for on road use-but people buy them. Recently the 40-year-old headlight rules were updated by DOT/NHTSA to allow European style headlights. One design is the Matrix light, I have seen/tested these in an Audi. There are 13 bulbs on each side of the car and no traditional high/low beam. These lights provide incredible light but shut down bulb/light segments as other vehicle approach. This design provides sufficient

light to the edge of the road and doesn't blind oncoming drivers.

Q. I recently saw a Tesla powered Toyota RAV4 for sale, the car was older, but it said it had a Tesla drivetrain. When did that happen?

A. I suspect what you may have seen was an RAV4 with a very early Tesla battery (made by Panasonic). I remember seeing these at one of the big auto-shows around 2010 and at the time most people just thought EVs were a fad and Tesla was going to be nothing more than a quick mention in the automotive history books.

Q. What things do I need to check or go through to get my car ready for summer? After staying home for three years due to Covid-19 it is time to go explore our country. It will be my wife and I and our small dog and our 2018 Honda CR-V. The car seems in good shape and only has 40,000 miles on it.

A. 2018 still makes your Honda sound new, but it is six years old, and a little maintenance and repairs may be necessary. With 40,000 miles on the car, it could need new tires (a great investment for a long road trip) and the brakes could be nearing the end of their useful life. Change the engine oil, air and cabin filters, check the battery (if original just replace it). Check all of the belts, hoses, coolant level and condition. If the brakes need replacement, also replace the brake fluid. If you are driving with a roof top carrier and also driving mountain roads, change the transmission fluid before your trip and use only Honda fluid. Enjoy your trip and send photos.

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 @johnspaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnspaul.

\$600 CASH

for all COMPLETE vehicles delivered to
RPM Enterprises
Pick up is also available

THE BEST DEAL AROUND!!!
ALL THE TIME - Cash Paid
for Your Light & Heavy Scrap
Office **1-959-444-3889**

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

Financial freedom: a gift to your family

Here's a sobering statistic: 72% of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you are near retirement, how can you prepare yourself to become financially free, so you won't have to depend on grown children or other family members?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- **Keep adding to retirement savings.** Today, with a greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, many people are spending two, or even three, decades in an active retirement. To help pay for those years, then, you'll likely need to build your retirement savings as much as possible. So, while you're still working, try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you are in the later stages of your career, possibly close to your peak earning power, you may be able to put in sizable sums every year.

- **Choose an appropriate withdrawal rate.** While it's obviously important to build your retirement savings, it's just as essential to make the money last. Once you retire, you'll want to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate — that is, the amount you can take out each year from your 401(k) and other investments without running the risk of outliving your money. The amount you can safely withdraw each year will depend on a variety of factors, including your age, your account balances, Social Security benefits, inflation, income tax rates and spousal income. In any case, selecting a suitable withdrawal rate can help go a long way toward preserving your financial freedom throughout your retirement.

- **Think about downsizing.** One possible way to boost your savings and add liquidity is to downsize your living arrangements. This may be an attractive option if your children are grown and your current home feels too large. Of course, downsizing is a highly personal decision — if you've lived in your home for many years, have fond memories of raising a family in it and still enjoy the neighborhood, it can certainly be hard to leave. Consequently, you'll need to weigh these emotional factors against the po-

tential financial benefits of moving into a smaller, less expensive space.

- **Prepare for long-term care costs.** If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, you could face some sizable expenses, most of which may not be covered by Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. And clearly, you would not want to put your grown children in a position where they might feel the need to step in financially. To help avoid this possibility, you may want to consult with a financial professional about addressing these costs through strategies that may be appropriate for your needs.

These aren't the only ideas to consider in helping maintain your financial independence and reducing your potential dependence on your family during your retirement years. But taken together, they can give you a good start — so think about putting them to work.

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

feel it. He's been gone this whole day, but now he's back again and I cannot wait to tell him how much I've missed him! His mouth opens and closes to Ben's movements. His tail wags. He edges closer to the car and bows to a downward dog position. "I am the luckiest dog ever."

and he dashes off to his bed to play hard-to-get. "I don't want to wear a jacket." Another dramatic episode unfolds. Living with Luke is never dull. Stay tuned for the next story!

*Find Luke on Instagram @living-withlukevalentino.
Write to Amy - amyleclaire@hotmail.com*

LUKE
continued from page 12

Where's the logo?" Luke notices details. He'll watch children get off the bus and break into a two-year-old smile.



"I've known those girls my whole life. Gosh, they're getting so big." Nothing quite compares to Luke's expression when watching his big brother, my son, arrive home from work. "Oh my gosh. He's parking. He's going to get out the car, I can

PATIENT LUKE
Luke's patient expression reminds me of how much he needs me. He'll rest his big head over his paws and sulk until I'm ready to take him for a walk. "I wonder if I'll get my walk in today." Luke receives two to three walks per day, yet consistently feels sorry for himself. "I'm a big dog with bigger needs than a cat, but I'll be fine. You get to explore four different gyms, drive fast along highways, and meet dozens of humans per day. Me? I'm a dog. I stare at the same four sights every day. But take your time. I'll be fine."

Nothing makes me happier than pulling Luke out of his funk. "Luke- are you ready to go for a walk???" I emphasize the phrase so that it sinks happily into his big head. Then I grab his harness,

Little Diggers Construction LLC

Foundations
Excavation
Landscape Construction
Underground Utilities
Snow Removal
Emergency Services
Stump Removal
Drainage
Full Service Site work

Office - (508)917-6408
Emergency/Urgent Service - (774)633-9860
www.LittleDiggersConstruction.com

"Where Spring Dost Spring Forth For The Valley!"

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

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.

There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

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

IRT-1948M-A AECSPAD 22053252

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

UNITRANS TRANSPORTATION
POOL WATER DELIVERY
508-278-9946
 EMILE 401-692-0780 SCOTT 401-692-0781

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

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

TALES FROM BEYOND tomdagostino.com

Betty Moody's Cave

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

King Philip's War in New England was the most brutal conflict, per capita, ever fought on American soil. Whole villages were attacked and burned on both sides without regard of life or limb. Even after the treaties of 1676 and 1678, raids and attacks continued. Later, the French joined the Natives in an attempt to once more rid the land of the English. This was part of Queen Anne's War and lasted into the first part of the 18th century.

Hostilities between settlers and Indigenous peoples were not confined to the mainland of New England. The many islands that were populated by the English also became targets of aggression by raiding parties. Among them were the Isles of Shoals, about six to ten miles off the coasts of New Hampshire and Maine. There are nine small islands in total, five of them belonging to Maine and four to New Hampshire. Before being discovered by John Smith in

1614, some of the islands were used as seasonal fishing camps by the Natives. By the 1620s, the larger islands were being sparsely settled by Europeans. Star Island, Smuttynose and Appledore became home to fishermen and their families. Permanent settlements were in place by the time King Philip's War broke out but saw little to no threat—that is, until Queen Anne's War. In 1689, a band of Native warriors attacked Star Island, presumably in hopes of reclaiming their fishing camp. During the raid, a woman named Betty Moody escaped with her two children to a cave located on the southeastern edge of the island. While holed up in the cavern, the children began to cry out of fear. Betty tried to cover their mouths so they would not be heard. Unfortunately, she covered their mouths so hard that she suffocated them. Some say she did it to spare her own life, while others believe she was so afraid herself that she was not aware of how tightly she was gripping their mouths until it

was too late.

Whatever version you deem valid does not take away from the fact that she appears to be eternally sorrowful for her deed, as screams and wails can be heard from the cave where she mourns her fateful act. The crying is suddenly heard in the wind permeating the rocky outcropping just before a terrible storm grips the islands. Many say it is the ghosts of the children finally crying out. Either way, when the phantom wailing is heard and the winds pick up around the island, it is best to hunker down and listen for the echoes of the crying children or Betty to pass.

Star Island holds three day and week long conferences during the warmer months and is also open for day visits and tours. One can stay one night as well without attending a conference. The choice is yours. There are more stories and legends that abound on the island which is the second largest of the Isles of Shoals and arguably, the most haunted.

Al's

RUBBISH & CONTAINER SERVICE

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



Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Al's Rubbish Provides

- Dumpster Rental Services 7 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 |

7 Day rental



Serving the Blackstone Valley and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

FREE DROP OFF AND PICK UP!



508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Support Local Small Business

May Events at Charlton Public Library

Visit our website (charltonlibrary.org) for a full listing of programs and events or to register.

MOVIES @ THE LIBRARY

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 ONLY in Dexter Hall. No registration required. Free popcorn!

May 14: CRAZY RICH ASIANS. 2018. PG13. 2 hrs. This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family.

May 21: THE BIG SICK. 2017. R. 2 hrs. Pakistan-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash. When Emily contracts a mysterious illness, Kumail finds himself forced to face her feisty parents, his family's expectations, and his true feelings.

May 28: THE JOY LUCK CLUB. 1993. R. 2 hrs 19 min. The life histories of four East Asian women and their daughters reflect and guide each other.

SILVER NEEDLES KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room - No registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

GENEALOGY GROUP MEETING

Thursday, May 2, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. Tonight will be a general discussion.

SOURDOUGH STARTER WORKSHOP WITH SOURDOUGH BRANDON

Saturday, May 4, 10:00-11:30 - Dexter Hall - Registration required

Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from sourdough baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon. You'll leave with many tips and tricks on how

to keep your sourdough starter active, what to make with your starter, and even leave with some free sourdough starter!

CPL BOOK DISCUSSION

THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Thursday, May 9, 6:00-7:00 - Community Meeting Room and via Zoom - No registration

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88235025038>

COMMUNITY YOGA

Saturday, May 11, 9:45-10:45 - Maynard Field (weather permitting) or Dexter Hall

All ages and levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, May 16, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Led by experienced caregivers and offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. No registration Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

BEEES AND BEEKEEPING

Saturday, May 18, 10:00-11:00 - Dexter Hall - No registration

Join John Hedly, local beekeeper and member of Worcester County Beekeepers Association, to learn the basics of beekeeping. Topics to include: Starting a beehive; The physical structure of a beehive; The bee colony and its organization; Bee chores in and out of a hive; Collecting honey; The importance of pollination. This program is free and open to all ages. No registration is required.

SARJ (SATURDAY ACOUSTIC ROOTS JAM)

Saturday, May 18, 12:00 - 1:30 - Community Meeting Room - No

registration required

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Join us to play or just to listen!!

CULE (CHARLTON UKULELE LEAGUE & ENSEMBLE)

Thursday, May 23, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

CRITICAL THINKING DISCUSSION GROUP

Medea by Euripides
Friday, May 24, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

MOTOWN HITS AND HISTORY CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Thursday, May 30, 6:30-7:30 - Dexter Hall - No registration

In this one hour concert, Melodious Zach will perform Motown favorites, and entertain you with Motown trivia. Featuring songs from artists such as: Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Four Tops, and many more. Zach will also discuss the cultural significance of Motown and how it changed over the years. This concert is free and open to all.



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

May Celebrations are being planned for Graduations, Mother's Day and Memorial Day so plan on stopping by for your favorites at Marty's!

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

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

Follow us on  



Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



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



SINCE 2003 CELEBRATING 21 YEARS IN BUSINESS

ALL TIMES CONSTRUCTION

HOME IMPROVEMENT
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELING
- CARPENTRY
- ADDITIONS
- CLEANING
- PAINTING

508-231-7703

FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES

alltimesconstruction1@gmail.com
www.alltimesconstruction.com
1244 Highland St, Holliston MA

GET **\$500 OFF**
*Any Exterior Painting for houses larger than 2,000 sq ft







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.

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 or Wings of Song President Carol Curtin at 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.
• 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 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@stpeterrockdale.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.
• Annual Church and Community Yard Sale Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Church, 315 Church Street in Whitinsville holds its Annual Church and Community Yard Sale on the front lawn facing Church Street on

Saturday, June 8th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Vendor space is available for a donation of \$15 per spot so if you were contemplating your own yard sale but don't have the space you can't been the green lawn, tree shade and great traffic exposure along Church Street. Since this is an outdoor event, please provide you own tables, tarps and canopies if desired. Admission to the buying public is free with plenty of parking along both sides of Church Street or behind the church. For details and reservations, please email Jeff at katama@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

• The Sutton 4th Committee will be sponsoring their third July 4th event on June 29th. The parade kicks off at 10am from the Sutton town common and ends at the Sutton School grounds with food trucks, live entertainment and games. Visit www.thesuttonfourth.org for more information.

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 18: Wallis Pond Loop Hike, Douglas
Saturday, June 15: Douglas State Forest Hike, Douglas

INDIAN RANCH
FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS, VISIT WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM
OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD • WEBSTER, MA
MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

JO DEE MESSINA
New England HOMECOMING
JUNE 1 • 1PM

VOYAGE
CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JOURNALS
JUNE 9 • 1PM

GET THE LED OUT
A CELEBRATION OF "THE NIGHTY ZEP"
JUNE 15 • 7PM
AUGUST 23 • 7PM

THE MAVERICKS
MOON & STARS SUMMER TOUR '24
JUNE 22 • 1PM

SAMUEL SLATER'S RESTAURANT
HOURS:
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY (4PM - 9PM)
SATURDAY (12PM - 9PM) • SUNDAY (12PM - 8PM)
BOOK YOUR PRIVATE EVENT TODAY!
From small groups to large gatherings, we accommodate all party sizes.
Email functions@samuelsslatters.com or visit www.samuelsslatters.com/private-functions
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
MAY 12 • 10AM
COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
MAY 23 • 7:30PM
AQUANETT
MAY 24 • 8PM
TICKETS, RESERVATIONS, AND MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.SAMUELSSLATTERS.COM
LAKESIDE DINING • 200 GORE ROAD • WEBSTER, MA

Scotty McCreery
LIVE IN CONCERT
JUNE 23 • 1PM

THREE DOG NIGHT
Live in concert
Chris Frappier
JUNE 29 • 1PM

Elle King
JUNE 30 • 1PM

JUSTIN HAYWARD
A TIME GAMMA AWARD WINNER
CHRISTOPHER CROSS
JULY 7 • 1PM

Aaron Lewis
JULY 14 • 1PM

LEPPARD
DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE
EVERYBODY WANTS SOME
RAISE YOUR HANDS
BACK IN BLACK
JULY 20 • 12PM

RUMOURS
THE ULTIMATE FLEETWOOD MAC
JULY 21 • 1PM

Yachtley Crew
JULY 25 • 7PM

ALMOST QUEEN
WITH SPECIAL GUEST STEVE LEONARD
JULY 27 • 1PM

THE CONCERT
A TRIBUTE TO ABBA
AUGUST 2 • 7PM

BADFISH
AUGUST 3 • 1PM

GRACE POTTER
AUGUST 4 • 1PM

TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN & BILLY JOEL
FACE 2 FACE
AUGUST 9 • 7PM

RIPE
AUGUST 10 • 1PM

THE BEACH BOYS
ENDLESS SUMMER GOLD
AUGUST 11 • 1PM

TYLER HUBBARD
LIVE
AUGUST 18 • 1PM

LITTLE FEAT
CAN'T BE SATISFIED TOUR
Steel Wheels
AUGUST 24 • 1PM

BRETT YOUNG
LIVE IN CONCERT
SEPTEMBER 7 • 1PM

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 or call 508.943.3871. For information on private events, banquets and renting the Indian Princess Paddlewheel Boat, contact 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.

Juston McKinney To Headline Comedy Night At Slater's

Thursday, May 23rd with Special Guests Al Park and Kathy Gilmour

Comedy returns to Samuel Slater's Restaurant in Webster, MA on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The show will feature Juston McKinney plus special guests Al Park and Kathy Gilmour for a night of laughs. Doors open at 6:30 PM; show starts at 7:30 PM. Tickets are on-sale now at www.samuelslaters.com. With multiple appearances on The Tonight Show, two Comedy Central specials, and two Amazon Prime specials, including his latest, Parentally Challenged, it's no wonder the New York Times called Juston McKinney, "Destined for stardom." Juston was born in



Portsmouth, NH where he grew up until the 6th grade. That's when his aunt and dad, wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life, packed up the family of eight and moved north to Kittery, ME.

After attending the—very prestigious—Southern Maine Community College, he spent 7 years as a York County Deputy Sheriff, patrolling the woods. In the late 1990's, he traded in his badge for a microphone and went from York County to New York City to pursue a career in comedy. He quickly became a regular at Comic Strip Live, Stand-Up New York, Dangerfield's, Gotham Comedy Club,

and Caroline's on Broadway. Juston would go on to sign sitcom development deals with Warner Brothers, CBS, IFC and Comedy Central.

Tickets for Comedy Night at Slater's with Juston McKinney & Guests on Thursday, May 23, 2024 are on-sale now at samuelslaters.com. Samuel Slater's Restaurant is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA outside of Worcester and less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield.

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

SHREWSBURY
Marble & Granite, Inc

Biggest selection of marble, granite and quartz.

ALL MARBLE & GRANITE SLABS ON SITE

37 Years In Business

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

Town Meeting Dates

WEBSTER
MONDAY, MAY 13 - 6:30 P.M.
Park Avenue Elementary School
58 Park Avenue, Webster

DUDLEY
MONDAY, MAY 20 - 7 P.M.
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley

CHARLTON
MONDAY, MAY 20 - 7 P.M.
Charlton Middle School
2 Oxford Road, Charlton

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

MASTER PLUMBER LIC. NO. 9216

MASTER SHEET METAL LIC. NO. 115

Valley Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

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

RICHARD J. WUNSCHEL
(508) 234-3649

30 LACKEY DAM ROAD, SUTTON, MA 01590-2714

\$50 off ANY JOB
(one per household)

10% DISCOUNT SENIORS VETERANS HANDICAP

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

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

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!

Winners will be announced in our Summer Guide - Coming in June!

Share your photo today! Last chance for entries is May 17!

Southwick's ZOO

Scan to Enter

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.

The Yankee Xpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



Central air conditioning and ductless mini splits

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.



508.434.1335
A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

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!

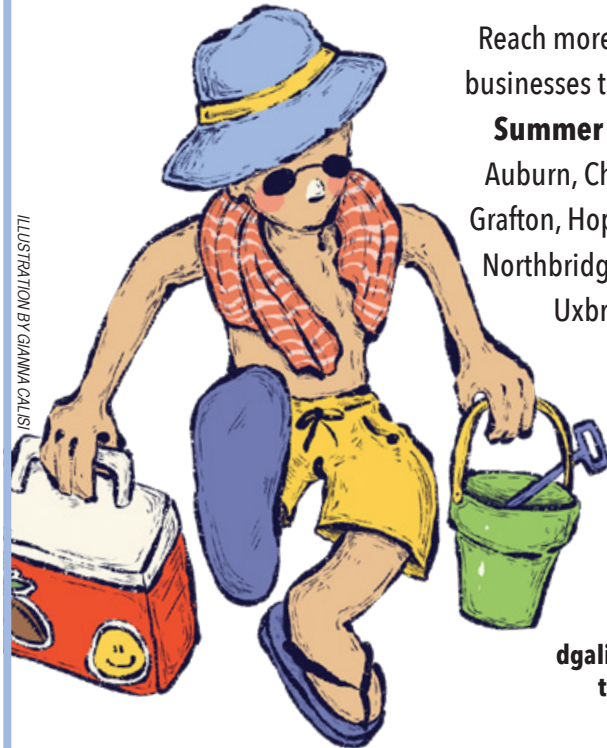


ILLUSTRATION BY GIANNA CALISI

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.com** to book your space today!

TheYankeeXpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS



CHARLTON MANOR

REST HOME / ASSISTED LIVING



We can help... We care.



Charlton Manor

WELCOME HOME

The Charlton Manor has been completely transformed and renovated under the care of Michael Turpin who has over 30 years of experience in health care. The Manor is the closest thing to a home environment. The Manor sits on over 30 acres of beautiful country grounds.



Ava and Jackie

OUR COMMUNITY

We are a small elegant home with many special features, you will feel like you are visiting a Bed and Breakfast or an old Inn while you are here. We offer the best care and oversight possible with cheerful, compassionate staff who are eager to serve our residents as well as their families.



Father Ernie and Tom

WE CARE

At Charlton Manor we handle all levels of care. We believe in aging in place and no transfers to a nursing home are necessary. If needed, we provide one-to-one care. We are a dementia friendly home and we provide hospice care if necessary. Call us for a private tour.



Call Michael D. Turpin, President
Debra Fitts, Administrator
978-314-2290 or email: dfitts.cmrh@gmail.com

Now Hiring!
CNAs and Cooks
- all positions!
Apply today!



charltonmanorresthome.com

12 Town Farm Road, Charlton MA 01507 | Tel. 508-248-5136 | Cell. 978-314-2290 | Fax 508-248-6445