

Auburn Town Meeting Results

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Auburn's May town meeting provided 22 warrant articles which presented and approved an \$82.5 million budget, a 0.22% increase over the fiscal 2023-2024 budget. The increase amounted to a \$173,000 increase according to Town Manager, Edward Kazanovicz. "We've accumu-

a Human Resource Generalist position. The town did go forward with one full-time fire-training position which is funded by ambulance receipts. A recommendation for a new police lieutenant position remained in the budget effective April 1, 2025 with limited resources to commit to the position after the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The town is also dealing with the new body-cam program as well

The HR Generalist position is on the priority list.

Funding level services and maintaining staff along with fleet services has significantly increased over last fiscal year. It's all fixed costs like employee benefits, fuel, fixed interest as well as collective bargaining. The school budget has increased by \$1.3 million or 4.5% and the teachers' contract is being negotiated currently.

By the Fall Town Meeting, \$500,000 will be needed for the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) which refers to benefits, other than pensions, that a state or local government employee receives as part of their retirement package benefits. The tax rate classification hearing will be set and the Dept. of Revenue reviews and approves the rate in November/December 2024.

"The budget addresses and emphasizes our fixed costs, our contractual obligations and our costs due to economics and inflation. It meets our employee benefit obligations, Worcester regional retirement assessment, Medicare costs, long-term debt and interest costs, long-term disability for Auburn Middle School, our Bay Path Vocational High School assessment, estimated costs for vehicle fueling, and also provides for capital improvements of \$3.9 million such as police vehicles, fire apparatus, school rehab and equipment, and a new ambulance" Mr. Kazanovicz stated.

May is only the beginning of the process and town residents will be able to review and address the final budget at the Fall town meeting.



lated an excess levy of \$9.2 million," said Mr. Kazanovicz, "and we have the ability to add 9.2% but we're not doing that. Cumulative savings to taxpayers has been \$70 million since 2008. Our current challenges, however, include limited growth from the state. Our 8-year average of state aid has been approximately \$950,000 compared to this year of only \$166,000. We have to rely more on local receipts and taxes such as the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, Hotel Room taxes, etc."

The Town Manager further explained that on the operational side the schools have no new positions and the town has eliminated

as POST (Peace Officers Standard and Training Commission) reporting which entails reporting of officer conduct activity.

"The budget for this year was very challenging due to inflationary costs vs. costs of wages, vehicle maintenance, fuel, etc. and it's also more costly to purchase vehicles. Our town is not alone in these challenges as every other community is dealing with the same situation to balance its budget using government estimates and House and Senate estimates," said Town Manager Kazanovicz. The town will know by June if the sum of \$200,000 will be available to them.

Oxford Town Manager Callahan Stresses Economic Development, Blighted Properties

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

According to the latest Town Manager's report, the town has secured Brownfields cleanup funding for the former Moscoffian property on Old Webster Road that has served to attract a new company to town, Bright Feeds. Brownfield remediation is the act of removing or sealing off points of contamination within a property in order for the property to be used again without health concerns. The Bright Feeds' website states that "the company is pioneering a new pathway to combating climate change and meeting global food insecurity challenges through innovations in waste management." It further states that "they help companies meet their sustainability goals and increase profit margins by turning their unwanted food into high-quality nutritious animal feed." The Town Manager narrative indicates that the adjacent property cleanup was a major factor in Bright Feeds' choice to locate to Oxford.

On Wednesday, June 5, the town, along with the CMRPC (Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission) will be hosting a Business Forum at the Carbuncle Pond Beach House, 12 Carbuncle Drive in Oxford, for all town business owners and their representa-

tives to not only connect with each other but also to discuss business needs and priorities in order to foster a more business-friendly environment. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. Interested businesses are invited to pre-register as soon as possible by contacting the Town Manager's office at (508) 987-6038.

Oxford and the CMRPC are working together to develop an Economic Development Plan to assist with the town's growth. As part of the plan's development, a survey targeting small businesses to gather feedback about ongoing needs, concerns, trends, and opportunities has been put together. There will be in-person visits to local businesses as well. Oxford business owners are encouraged to respond where all responses are kept anonymous.

Please access the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/OxfordBusinessSurvey

Additionally, The Town is in the process of creating an online Video Community Tour to showcase economic opportunities in Oxford. The objective of the promotional video is to attract business interests that are conducting their own research of communities when

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considering where to start, expand, or revamp their businesses. Currently, the Town Manager’s Office is working with a consultant on the development of the video content. “In the end, we all desire a high-quality product that will be both a relevant and enduring addition to featuring the best business-friendly attributes of Oxford to help attract other businesses to set their roots down here,” said Manager Callahan. The Town anticipates launching the video soon and to feature it

prominently on Oxford’s new municipal website.

Last fall, Manager Callahan presented to the Webster, Oxford, and Dudley Chamber of

Commerce and highlighted the focus Oxford has on cleaning up blight and filling vacant

commercial and business properties. “It is an ongoing effort to highlight all of the great businesses and people we have in town. I am proud to be an advocate and showcase what we have to offer.

A strong and thriving business community not only benefits Oxford, but helps the entire region,” said Ms. Callahan. Earlier this spring, the Town of Oxford

successfully applied for and made the case to the Commonwealth’s Massachusetts Office of Business Development to receive approval for establishing a new Vacant Storefront Districts in the downtown area. The purpose of the program is to help municipalities to revitalize their commercial areas. Municipalities may apply for certification to designate a commercial area(s) as a Certified Vacant Storefront District. In Oxford’s situation, three target areas have been identified to include properties located along portions of Main Street and Sutton Avenue.

On March 28, 2024, Manager Callahan met with the Economic

Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) to review Oxford’s proposal to designate areas along Main Street and Sutton Avenue to participate in the Vacant Storefront Program. On that same day, the EACC unanimously voted to approve Oxford’s designation to participate in the Massachusetts Vacant Storefronts Program (MVSP). This designation now qualifies businesses or individuals to apply to the EACC for refundable EDIP tax credits (up to \$10,000) for leasing and occupying a vacant storefront in any of the three approved Districts. The state certification process for both identified Districts and future

business applicants is competitive. Receiving this designation entailed months of hard work from extensive planning, site visits, and developing support materials. With the designation in hand, the Town has now opened up an opportunity for businesses to apply for these state tax credits if they lease or occupy a vacant storefront within the newly-designated districts. The Town Manager’s Office will be conducting outreach in the coming weeks to educate and encourage businesses and individuals to participate in the program.

Oxford Small Business Forum

The Town of Oxford and Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission will be hosting a Forum for Small Business on Wednesday, June 5, starting at 9 a.m. at the Carbuncle Beach House. Additionally, a survey is now available for local businesses to share their needs and priorities. The forum and survey results will be used to create a Local Economic Development Plan for the Town of Oxford.

To connect to the survey, visit <https://bit.ly/OxfordBusinessSurvey> or <https://bit.ly/OxfordBusinessSurvey>.





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Auburn Town Library

Monday, May 27
Library closed in observance of Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 28
1 p.m. STEM of r children ages 3-6 requires pre-registration
5 p.m. Knitting Group- drop-in; no registration required
Wednesday, May 30
6 p.m. Beyond the Bicep; The Real Story of Rosie the Riveter
Tuesday, June 4
1 p.m. STEM

Monday, June 10
5:30 p.m. Book Club- discussing "The Lost Boys of Montauk" by Amanda Fairbanks. Books are available at the library.
Wednesday, June 19
Library closed
Monday, June 24
2 p.m. Owl Pellets
5:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Friday, June 29
9 a.m. Boy Scouts/Board of Health Town-wide Recycling

Auburn Memorial Day Parade

Staging at 9am (parade sets out at 10am)
Location: Rockland Road, Auburn

MA (pick-up location at St. Edmunds Center, Auburn).
This year's parade sponsor is McCoy Action Karate.

Auburn Historical Society internships

For the fourth summer, the Auburn Historical Society will be offering an internship program for high school and college students at the Auburn Historical Museum, 41 South Street, Auburn. Interns will work on projects including: categorizing and organizing historic photographs and documents to prepare for digitization. Researching topics on the history of the Town of Auburn Data input for our Holstrom Digital Archives, assisting with creating and running public programs, learning and gaining hands-on experience in the creation, care, and

maintenance of an historical museum's exhibits and facilities Each unpaid internship is tailored to the individual and their interests. It is a great opportunity for high school and college students, scouts, youth groups, and those looking to fulfill community service hours or to gain work experience. For more information on this program, please contact Helen, internship coordinator at auburnmuseum@verizon.net. The Auburn Historical Society and Museum is open year round every Tuesday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and offers free admission

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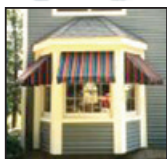


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SPORTS

Auburn Girls Golf

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having coached golf for many years Auburn girl's golf coach Mike Kaczynski noted that girls can be rather cliquy and/or chatty, but this year's team is far from that and each time that they step onto the course they are looking to make a difference.

"All the girls are dedicated to the sport, especially in practice. Golf is a great sport to play, but when the weather is not all that great it makes it hard to stay focused," the Auburn coach said. "But this group has done well with staying focused while working together to stay on task."

In addition to Kaczynski teaching the girls the game, Maggie Duffy has stepped into the assistant coach vacancy and has been a pleasant addition to the team this spring.

Last season, the Rockets put forth a valiant fight throughout the year and found themselves close to .500 just missing out on tournament play, but Kaczynski believes this year's squad has the capability of advancing into the State Tournament. The team is hoping to qualify for tournament play this year and although it is still early in the season, they are on course.

Senior Cecilia Shenette will be teeing off as the team's number one golfer for the second year in a row.

The senior has already committed to pay golf for Assumption College next year. According to the coach, Shenette is committed to the sport and one of the most dedicated golfers that he has ever coached. Shenette shoots a three over par (low 40's) for the team.

"In addition to playing junior [golf] tournaments during the summer, she has worked extremely hard at her game and even got herself a coach outside of high school which has helped her considerably," Kaczynski said. "Cecilia is one that doesn't get shook with her mistakes; she just lets it go and moves onto the next hole. She doesn't allow it to ruin her game."

The Rockets have three seniors, making up one third of this year's team. Rachel Cowden and Alaina Toohey will join forces with Shenette on the golf course. Both girls will find themselves somewhere in Kaczynski's top six on a regular basis. Cowden will play the role that the team needs, usually with another golfer who is not as experienced. She is a four-year golfer and is working on her consistency.

Toohey is Kaczynski's go-to girl. She is a leads- by-example individual and the coach noted that she is usually the first and last to do things; with that the other's seem to follow. Although a three-year golfer with the team, she is always looking to improve her game; she is serious on the course, but also



wants it to be fun.

Following the seniors are two sophomores in Callie Guertin and Reese Leonard, both of whom are playing in their second season for Auburn. Guertin has found herself in the top 8 on a regular basis but is still working on her game. Although she does show potential, the Coach noted that her consistency still needs some work. During practice she is not as patient, but experience will come with time. According to the coach,

Leonard is one that listens well and takes things to heart. She is a very coachable individual that listens, then applies what she was taught.

Rounding out the squad are four freshmen all looking to make an impact on the team. Four individuals that the coach calls the best young group he has seen in his 14 years of coaching. Sabrina Cooper is a rather quiet individual that lets her golf do the talking. She is the team's number two golfer behind Shenette and one of the more talented golfers on the team.

"Sabrina hits the ball the furthest," the Coach said. "She is currently about 3 or 4 strokes behind Cecilia and only in her second year with the team. She shows commitment to improving by playing a lot over the summer months."

Ava Herrie or the little one according to her coach, is a very small kid that will see action at either the third or fourth golfer for the team. She is another individual that is committed to the game is scores well for the Rockets.

"Playing in the third or fourth spot she will find herself up against older kids," Kaczynski said. "However, with that said she has been holding her own and has already

beaten two out of three of them so far this year?"

Herrie also takes lessons on the side, showing the coach her commitment to the game. Along with Cooper the two make a good duo for the future of this team.

Freshman Kendall Johnson is just beginning her career with golf and according to the coach seems to be having fun so far while enjoying the game. Johnson, although fitting into the freshman group, seems to be the out spoken one. She is an outgoing individual that is willing to speak up and ask how she can improve upon her game.

The last freshman on the team is Taylor Romano, another of the quiet girls. She possesses a nice swing and has a really good arc on her ball but needs to stay focused. If she continues to progress as the coach anticipates she will become a really good golfer and be able to help this team in the near future.

The three seniors are not only providing the younger girls with the leadership they need to succeed while hopefully advancing into the post-season; they are setting good examples for the others to emulate and if followed should be able to take this team into the future.



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Two 20 minute halves, the last two minutes of each half will be stop time. Two certified refs per game, one person to do the clock and book. Players must have numbers on the back of their jerseys also.

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Dr. Pappas Gymnasium
99 Auburn Street
5-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
June 24 – August 1
All ages. Registration through 5 p.m. June 24
Fee: \$800. Player waiver required.

Two 20 minute halves, the last two minutes of each half will be stop time. Two certified refs per game, one person to do the clock and book. Players must have numbers on the back of their jerseys also.

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It is important to pre-register in order that we may provide adequate staffing.
A full weeks payment is due at sign-up. Registration is required two weeks before the start of camp.

Campers must have immunization record, current physical (within one year), medication permission form, sunscreen policy form, summer school permission slip and Auburn Public Library permission slip.
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list of available camps. Pricing runs from \$55 per day for a resident or \$250 for the week.
Half days are \$30 per day for 8:30 – 11:45 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Non-resident prices are slightly higher.
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Memorial Day Duck Race 2024

The GFWC, Auburn Junior Woman's Club is hosting their 21st Annual Memorial Day Duck Race at Mirror Pond behind the Auburn Public Library, immediately following the Memorial Day Parade.

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society

Five Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and an alum were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) on Sunday, May 12 during an in-person ceremony held amidst the apple blossoms at Douglas Orchard and Farms. The outside event marked the ninth annual induction ceremony for the Academy. This year is the fifth year the NTHS induction was held at the beautiful grounds of Douglas Orchard and Farms.

According to Academy Director, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, practical nursing students eagerly look forward to this prestigious event yearly. “Making it through nursing school and being inducted into the NTHS is a feather in their cap! The PN students juggle school, work, and family life, it is quite a feat to be inducted to the NTHS,” said Bolandrina, who has been organizing

the induction ceremony for the last 9 years.

Owner, architect and builder Aaron Socrat proudly stated he envisioned the use of the pavilion with the apple orchard as the backdrop for the NTHS induction, and it turned out to be amazing!

The practical nursing students are eligible for induction based on their grade point average, faculty recommendation, character, and leadership involvement in extra-curricular activities, and clubs. These characteristics reflect the member attributes of the National Technical Honor Society: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

“We are grateful that Douglas Orchard and Farms continues to welcome us and helps us to celebrate our student nurses’ achievements. What started during the COVID-19 pandemic has



since turned into a tradition. Our practical nursing students and their families enjoyed the beautiful setting of Douglas Orchard and Farms,” added Bolandrina. “The practical nursing students remain resilient, kind, and caring. They

navigated the rigorous program and continue to participate in many volunteer activities to help the community.”

Photo shows the PN Class of 2024 NTHS Inductees Victoria Boateng, Julie Dodson, Regina

Njuguna, Patrick Njunge, and Ashley Urbain. The PN Class of 2023 Honorary NTHS Inductee was Nancy Kamicha.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org).



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Jazz Age liberation in fashion: a historical look at clothing trends

Presentation at Samuel Slater Experience on June 9

When we think of 1920's fashion, the first thing that comes to mind is the flapper girl in a sequined short dress cov-

ered in fringe, paired with a string of pearls and feathered headband.

But how did the average person dress? Beth Marsh, a student of historical costume design, will talk about clothing as a way to understand people from the past, on Sunday, June 9, at 3 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience museum.

Ms. Marsh will describe the clothes worn by a typical college girl, examining a collection of reproduction garments, the history of each piece, how they were made, and what it felt like to wear them.

This free presentation is sponsored by the Webster Cultural Council. Please register online at the museum website <https://samuelslaterexperience.org>, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955.

Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray Street, Webster.



Ms. Marsh is a recent graduate of Connecticut College, where she majored in Architectural Studies and minored in Historical Costume Design. She is presently working as an architectural designer at a firm in Concord, New Hampshire.



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MONDAYS 10 a.m. Walking – meet at Le-mansky Park 10 a.m. Knit and Stitch 10 a.m. Senior Sweat \$3 10:30 a.m. Coloring Class 10:30 a. m. Blood Pressure Clinic 6-3 11 a.m. Yoga 12:45 p.m. Canasta and Movie	THURSDAYS 10 a.m. Chair Dance \$3 12:45 p.m. Bingo 1 p.m. iPad	THURSDAY, JUNE 11 12 p.m. Coffee and dessert with Auburn police officers SHINE appointments for free health insurance information with Patrick Morris, 508-832-7799	June 10 “Mother of the Bride” MONDAY, JUNE 10 AT 1 P.M. Fresh flower arrangement class. Call 508-832-7799 to register, \$15 cost (non-refundable). Tuesday, June 11 at 11 a.m. Cornhole games . Light refreshments. Call 508-799-832-7799.	MONDAY, JUNE 17 AT 1 P.M. Ice Cream Social and singer/ songwriter Stephen George with oldies, pop, folk, Christian and Country gems. RSVP to 508-832-7799. Sponsored by Officer Ronald Tarantino Jr. Charitable Fund.
TUESDAYS 10 a.m. Chair Dance \$3 11 a.m. Gentle Flow Yoga \$3 1 p.m. Let’s Move Together \$3	FRIDAYS 10 a.m. Strength and Balance 11 a.m. Meditation 12 p.m. Quilting 12:45 p.m. Bridge 12:45 p.m. Dominos 6:30 p.m. Pitch	TRANSPORTATION The Senior Center with WRTA offer a transit service for the residents of Auburn who are age 60 and over or who have disabilities of all ages. This is a shared ride service that will pick you up at your home. The van may make stops to pick up/drop off other passengers while you are on the way to your destination. Call the WRTA to sert up an account and schedule service at 508-752-9283.	TUESDAY, JUNE 11 AT 1 P.M. Aging Gracefully: A Fall Prevention and Wellness Workshop Ice Cream and Door Prize. Call 508-832-7799 to register.	TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1 – 3 P.M. Decoupage with Sincerely, Michele. \$15 includes supplies and sea shell.
WEDNESDAYS 9:30 a.m. Knit and Stitch 10 a.m. Walking – meet at Le-mansky Park 10 a.m. Strength and Balance \$3 11 a.m. Drop-in Tech 1 p.m. Pitch 1:30 p.m. Sign Language Class 6 p.m. Cribbage	MONDAY, JUNE 10 1-2:30 p.m. Support Group for Caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer’s or Dementia	MONDAY AT THE MOVIES 12:45 P.M. June 3 “A Cowgirl’s Song”	WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 AT 1 P.M. Fox 25 meteorologist Vicki Graf will be on hand to answer your questions. Call 508-832-7799 to register.	MONDAY, JUNE 24 AT 1 P.M. Jimmy “Rag Tag” O’Neil for Oldies, Sing-a-long, Frank Sinatra Show
	MONDAY, JUNE 3 10:30 – 11:30 p.m. Free Blood Pressure Clinic		THURSDAY, JUNE 13 AT 10:30 A.M. Mind Your Manners with Sari Bitticks. Learn the simple art of being polite and kind. Call 508-832-7799 to register.	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 AT 1 P.M. Paint with Jayne ; decorate a beautiful mason jar. Call 508-832-7799 to register. \$15.
	TUESDAY, JUNE 17 9-10 a.m. Veterans Agent Coffee Hour			TUESDAY, JUNE 25 AT 1 P.M. Effective Communication Strategies. RSVP at 508-422-7799.

Dudley, Oxford, Webster Town Meeting and Election Information

BY JANET STOICA jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com	Write in: Russell Jennings 55 votes Water/Sewer Commission (2 years) Write in: Paul Gagner 245 votes Planning Board Patricia Ann Rydlak 1,275 votes Recreation Commission (3 years) Patricia Ann Rydlak 1,227 votes Recreation Commission (1 year) Diane Doherty 190 votes Board of Health Write in: Stephen Zeveska 195 votes “ : Kimberly Laferriere 142 votes “ : Kim Coleman 98 votes Library Trustee (3 years) vote 2 Frances Mower 1,286 votes Stefan Sage 1,152 votes Library Trustee (1 year) vote 1 Lance Russel Morin 1,308 votes DCRSD Committee (3 year) Jeanne Renaud Costello 1,295 votes DCRSD Committee (1 year) Nicole Enberg 852 votes Anthony Aube 702 votes SWCRVSD Committee Donald Montville 1,142 votes Jay Sweet 442 votes Webster’s Town Elections held	on Monday, May 6, are as follows: Board of Selectmen (3 years) Scott Dziedzic 1,056 votes Board of Selectmen (1 year) Elaine Davies 732 votes Kaitlin Morin 464 votes School Committee (3 years) Nicholas Adamopolous 1,053 votes Miranda Sgariglia 4 votes Regional Vocational School Committee Robert Tremblay, Sr. 905 votes Finance Committee (3 years) Kaitlin Morin 4 votes Board of Health (3 years) Brett Bergeron 134 votes Board of Health (1 year) Oktawia Gielarowiec 951 votes Trustees of the Public Library (3	years) Jeanne Mikels 1,020 votes Susan Veshi 59 votes Redevelopment Authority (5 years) Don Bourque 15 votes	Write-ins 94 votes Housing Authority (5 years) Kathryn Ward 1,006 votes Town Clerk (3 years) Linda Krupsky 1,076 votes
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LIVING WITH LUKE

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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



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.

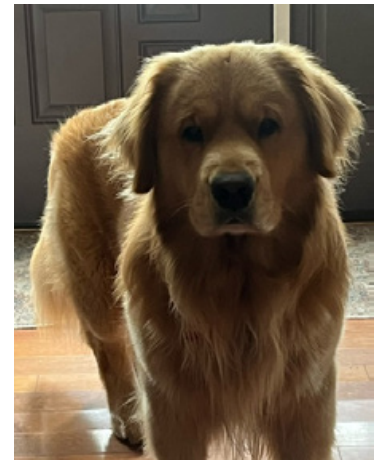
INTELLIGENT LUKE

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).

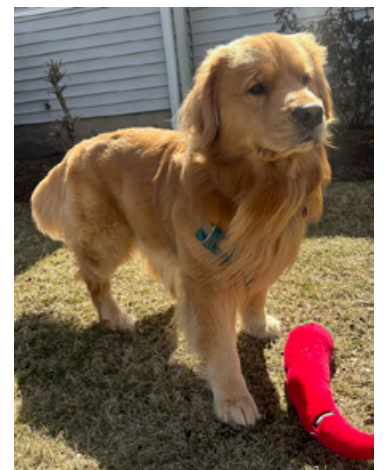
"Look, Luke! Mummy brought your bone!" I emphasize my support.

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.

LUKE

continued on page 9

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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

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, 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.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

LUKE

continued from page 8

I've learned to listen to my dog's watchful expressions, along with their bark-tones throughout the years. Dogs sense what we can-



not. 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. 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 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."

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, 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

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Upgrading aftermarket brakes warranted?

Q. I have a 2007 Mercury Mountaineer with a V8 engine and 137K trouble free miles. I'd like to keep the truck another 5 years. The SUV has, since new, gone through



BY JOHN PAUL

brake rotors like tissues, with warping and atrocious stopping distances throughout my ownership. I would love to upgrade the brakes but

cannot get a clear answer what is feasible. Are there cost effective aftermarket larger brake rotors and/or master cylinders that could decrease stopping distance and prolong the brake rotor life? I once compared my brake rotors to an F150's rotors, both vehicles up on the lift at my garage, and noticed how much more robust the F150 rotors were. Is it a simple job to swap brake systems?

A. Great question and I'm a little jealous that you have a lift in your garage. The Ford Sport Trac (built on a similar platform as the Explorer) and might be a better alternative to the F-150 pickup. The Sport Trac has larger rotors, but you would need to change the spindles, most likely master cylinder, combination valve and maybe even ABS pump. The issue could also be a problem with the rear brakes, if the rear brakes are getting lazy, the front brakes could be getting too hot. Other than that, I know lots of people have gone to slotted rotors, but I usually don't see enough improvement to justify the cost. If it were my next brake job, I would change the flex hoses (they clogged) clean and lube the slides, replace or rebuild the calipers and most important, remove corrosion from the wheel mounting surface, both disc mounting surfaces and hub mounting surface. Just a little rust can cause rotors to go out of round. Then torque wheels with a torque wrench.

Q. What should I keep in my car in case of emergencies? What I really want to know is what do you keep in your car. I'm guessing a portable jump-pack for starters; is there a brand that you like?

A. We have three cars in our household, and they all have small duffel bag with a few emergency items. For a jump-pack, I have had the best luck with the NOCO brand, it seems to be the most resistant to moisture and temperature variations. I have a portable air compressor, two connect to the car's battery one is from WORX and it uses the same batteries as other WORX tools that I have. As a temporary tire repair, I also keep a tire plug kit. I also have some basic hand tools, flares/reflectors, gloves and duct tape.

Q. My wife loves the Volvo XC40. She asked me to ask you for three other small SUVs that you would recommend.

A. The Volvo XC40 is a well-rounded vehicle and a tough competitor in its class. I would look at the Genesis GV60 and the Lexus NX. Two cars I like but I am a little afraid of long-term maintenance costs are the Jaguar I-Pace (a really nice car) and the Audi Q3. If your wife "loves" the Volvo XC40 that might be the best choice. Happy wife, happy life.

Q. I own a 2018 plug-in hybrid Honda Clarity. I really like the car and I especially like driving it in electric mode. The range for all electric mode ranges from about 30 to 50 miles depending on Temperature and type of driving. My question is, Is it ok to drive almost exclusively in electric mode and use very little gas? Does the car need to run in hybrid mode on occasion to circulate the oil throughout the engine? Also how often should the oil be changed considering the car is mostly drive in electric mode?

A. The car is designed to drive in EV mode as much as possible. I would add fuel stabilizer to keep the fuel fresh. Regarding oil changes, if the maintenance reminder doesn't come on to signal an oil change, change the oil once per year. Other than that, change the brake fluid every three years and follow the maintenance reminder for other normal service and enjoy your hybrid.

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

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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Don't let investments take a vacation

Summertime is almost here — and for many people that means it's time to hit the road. But even if you decide to take a vacation, you'll want other areas of



BY DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

your life to keep working — especially your investments.

So, how can you prevent your investments, and your overall financial strategy,

from going on "vacation"? Here are a few suggestions:

- **Check your progress.** You want your investments to be working hard for you, so you'll need to check on their performance periodically — but be careful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. So, instead of checking your progress against a market index, use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate of return to keep you moving

toward a comfortable retirement and other long-term goals.

- **Invest with a purpose.** When you work intensely at something, it's usually because you have a definite result in mind. And this sense of purpose applies to investing, too. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on "hot" tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life — how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

- **Be strategic with your investments.** Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals — and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment

that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

When you take a vacation, you will hopefully be more relaxed and refreshed. But if you let your investments stop working as hard as they should, the results could be stressful. So, be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

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

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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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.



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2024 Award Recipients Announced for Janet Malser Humanities Trust

The Janet Malser Humanities Trust is pleased to announce the 2024 grant award recipients below. Trustees make awards annually to verified tax-exempt organizations meeting the charitable purposes of the Trust. The causes for which funding is considered include: “the restoration and preservation of historic sites; the furtherance of art and music in the schools, both public and private; public concerts with an emphasis on classical music; the improvement and growth of public libraries; the support of church work aiding the indigent, homeless, aging citizens and needy children; beautification through planting and the preservation of park areas and cemeteries; the improvement of service and equipment at the Hubbard Regional Hospital [now UMASS Memorial], and the environmental protection of Webster Lake.” For more information visit janetmalsertrust.org.

15th Mass Volunteer Infantry, Mount Zion Cemetery Court, Webster
All Saints Academy, Webster
Bartlett High School ART Department, Webster
Black Tavern Historical Society, Dudley
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
Dudley Conservation Land Trust, Inc.
Dudley Grange #163
First Congregational Church, Dudley

Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Oxford
Our Bright Future Inc. at St. Joseph School, Webster
Oxford Firefighters Association (Huguenot Steamer No.1)
Oxford Free Public Library
Oxford Middle School
Oxford Public Schools
Park Avenue Parent Teacher Organization, Webster
Saint Joseph School, Webster
Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry, Oxford
Samuel Slater Experience/Webster Museums, Webster
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative
Town of Dudley
Town of Oxford Community Center
United Church of Christ Federated, Webster
Webster Lake Association

Quinsigamond Community College Releases List of Graduates

Quinsigamond Community College has released its 2024 list of graduates. The graduates participated in the 59th commencement ceremony at the DCU Center on May 17. To view the ceremony, visit www.QCC.edu/commencement.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE
Auburn: Cameron Szalay

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS
Auburn: Joseph Barrows, Jacqueline Cetrone
North Oxford: Jeremy Vargas
Oxford: Wilfrid Fotso Tasse, William Harvey, Darrel Ramos

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
Auburn: Logan Alexander, Haider Alnassar, Dylan Culani, Lyndsey Delorto, Alexis Fairbanks, Tiana Germain, Daquan Gooch, Andy Ho, Krystol Kruckas, Tue Lac, Jordan Lajoie, Thomas McKiernan, Samuel Museme, Chanel Napoli, Tien Luc Nguyen, Ravikumar Patel, Matthew Seaman, David Zona
North Oxford: Shannen Hennessy, Albert Wiafe
Oxford: Jennifer Carr, Nicole Cosway, Ariana Gelardi, Holly Gignilliat, Elijah Gray, Jennifer

Gum, Leah Kielinen, Kimberly Lindsey, Amanda Listewnik, Amanda Mailberg, DaShante Mitchell, Brandon Pen, Makayla Strzelewicz, Jared Torosian

CERTIFICATE
Auburn: Haider Alnassar, Michelle Anese, Angela DiTommaso, Stefany Flynn, Andy Ho, Hao Mai, Alvin Valerio, Jessic de Souza Salazar Lib
Oxford: Cassandra Bute, Mark Cruz, Nathan Hagopian, Meghan Kelley, Blake Lentine, Sean Perkins, Julie Viola

True Robotics Workshop

The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development in Whitinsville is hosting a robotics workshop at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5. This 45 minute workshop is designed for students age 9 years and older. Delve into the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) by building and controlling a robot. Use real world tools such as screwdrivers and wrenches for assembly. Once complete, students will have the opportunity to remotely control their robots and program them to drive on their own. The class has a maximum of 25 students allowed. This is a free event.

Register online at www.bvhub.org/event-details-registration or learn more at www.truerobotics.org. The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development is the non-profit arm of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC). It serves Blackstone, Douglas, Gradton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge. Established in 2018, we are dedicated to serving the workforce training needs of our community, schools and businesses. The class is located at 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville.

Milford Regional to Host Free Webinar for Parents on How to Best Support LGBTQ+ Youth

Milford Regional Medical Center's Community Benefits Committee is sponsoring a free webinar, "Opening Doors to Youth Mental Health: How Parents Can Best Support Their LGBTQ+ Child." The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. The latest in a series of youth mental health panel events, this webinar will feature clinical professionals' expert guidance and provide resources to provide positive mental

health. A parent will also join the panel to discuss her lived experience. Registration is required. To register, visit milfordregional.org and select "Classes and Events" on the homepage and then view "Webinars." A link will be sent 24 hours prior to the webinar to complete registrations. Registration closes on June 11. Direct questions to Milford Regional Public Relations and Community Benefits Manager

Michelle Sanford at 508-422-2827 or msanford@milreg.org. Milford Regional's Community Benefits Committee is dedicated to the improvement of the community's health through its leadership and local partnerships.



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

MONDAY, MAY 27
• GFWC, Auburn Junior Woman's Club is holding their 21st Annual Duck Race on Memorial Day this year (5/27)! After the Memorial Day Parade is finished our duck

race will commence at Mirror Pond behind the Auburn Public Library on Southbridge Street. The duck race is our largest fund-raising event. Proceeds from the event go towards scholarships for Auburn Seniors.

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.
• The Charlton Garden Club is holding its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1st on the Charlton Common from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Stop by for a choice selections of plants from annual and perennials to vegetables and woody plants. Come chat with our members. A Massachusetts Master Gardener Association volunteer will be on hand to test your soil's pH and make lime-stone recommendations if necessary. Bring a half cup of soil for free testing. When

collecting your soil sample, take several subsamples from the soil surface down 4 to 6 inches. Mix these together and place about half a cup of soil in a container to bring to the plant sale. Plant sale proceeds are used for program support, community activities like Earth Day and the Old Home Day Flower Show, and town beautification projects such as the Common plantings. We appreciate your support!
• On Saturday, June 1st at 2 p.m. Book-lovers' Gourmet is hosting an author talk and signing with James L. Parr, author of World War II Massachusetts, a collection of stories that could well be subtitled "The Hidden History of the War in the Bay State." The book is filled with unusual and forgotten tales of ordinary citizens doing their part to support the war effort. Grandparents, moms and dads, school kids and even the family pet worked and sacrificed as the country suffered through blackouts, shortages, rationing and uncertainty. Jim gives a one hour slide presentation with fascinating images, highlighting the strange events and forgotten heroes of this unique time in American history. The event is free and open to the public. Signed books will be available for purchase. To RSVP, please call 508-949-6232 or email deb@booklovers-gourmet.com.

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

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 15

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BOAT SCOOTIN BOOGIE CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUN 22 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 23 • 10AM
AWESOME 80'S CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUN 29 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 30 • 10AM
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LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 13 • 10AM
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LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 21 • 10AM
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Oxford and Auburn Takeovers at Polar Park

Join fellow townsfolk at Polar Park to watch the WooSox! Oxford residents can buy tickets to see the Sox battle the Norfolk Tides (MLB affiliate: Baltimore Orioles) at 4:05 p.m. on Saturday, May 25. The Auburn Town Takeover will be at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 as the WooSox take on the Columbus Clippers (MLB affiliate: Cleveland Indians).

Throughout the season, the WooSox will host 24 different towns in Central & Western MA at Polar Park for "Town Takeover" nights. Tickets purchased for each "Town Takeover" night will benefit a non-profit from that town. At the end of the season, the town with the largest turnout will be re-



warded with a trophy and special recognition.

During the Oxford Town Takeover, each ticket purchased through this link (www.milb.com/worcester/tickets/town-takeovers) will benefit the Oxford High Booster Club, and contribute towards Oxford's standing in the 2024 WooSox "Town Takeover" competition.

Residents of Oxford will be featured in the pregame ceremonies and throughout the ballgame. Each ticket includes \$2 of ballpark credit that can be used on concessions or merchandise.

As is Saturday tradition at Polar Park, stick around after the final out and enjoy a Sunset Catch on the Field, presented by

Dunkin'.

During the Auburn Town Takeover, each ticket purchased through this link (www.milb.com/worcester/tickets/town-takeovers) will benefit Auburn Youth & Family Services, and contribute towards Auburn's standing in the 2024 WooSox "Town Takeover" competition.

Residents of Auburn will be featured in the pregame ceremonies and throughout the ballgame. Each ticket includes \$2 of ballpark credit that can be used on concessions or merchandise.

Anyone in either town with questions or interest in group sales over 15 people, please contact Dalton Bodreau dbodreau@woosox.com.

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

parking along both sides of Church Street or behind the church. For details and reservations, please email Jeff at katama@gmail.com.

• On Saturday, June 8th at 2:30 p.m. come hear Fred Gerhard read from his new poetry book, *Drifting to "Hello"* (Khotso Publishing) at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster, MA. His poems have also appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. A 2023 winner of Poetry in the Pines, he writes from Ashburnham, MA, where he leads monthly poetry workshops. The event will also include an open mic portion. To sign up to read, please call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

• The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. will be hosting the Annual Sutton Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 15 from 8 am to 1 pm. The Society publishes a map of locations throughout town includ-

ing limited spaces for rent at the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue, Sutton. Registration fee is \$10 to be listed on the participating location map. Map will be posted on Facebook and uploaded to suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org prior to the event. Registration forms are available at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org. Questions can be directed to sutton1704@gmail.com. Don't want to have a yard sale, but have items to donate? Members of the Society will pick up your donations. Contact Brian Stevenson at 774-708-0582 or email us at sutton1704@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

• Sutton Fourth of July parade kicks off from Sutton Center at 10 am. Fun community events will be held at the Sutton Schools from 11 am to 4 pm. Information on the parade, participants, and the post parade events can be found at thesuttonfourth.org. The Historical Society will be set up with the civil war cannon for ole tyme photos. Stop by and learn about what the Society has to offer, and how we are preserving local history and preparing for the Nation's 250th anniversary.

Visit www.thesuttonfourth.org for more information.

HIKES WITH BLACKSTONE VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR HIKES

Led by volunteer Trail Ambassador Phil. Phil's hikes begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 15: Douglas State Forest Hike, Douglas

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE TUTTLE POST

88 Bancroft Street, Auburn
May 24 at 7:30 p.m. Ed Sullivans
May 31 at 7:30 p.m. Steven George
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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

charltonmanorresthome.com

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