

BLACKSTONE VALLEY *Xpress*

CROSTOWN ADS AND BUSINESS NEWS

February 11-March 11, 2022

A dream, a diner, days of joy for Cheryl Swyers

By Rod Lee

Cheryl Swyers is doing all right for herself as owner of The Family Table Diner on Quaker Highway in Uxbridge, considering that she entered the venture with no prior experience in the food industry.

"This has been a lifelong dream since I was twelve," Ms. Swyers said on January 20, just before closing time. "I always wanted to operate a truck stop."

The Family Table Diner, conveniently situated near the on-off ramps for Rt. 146, is open for breakfast (all day) and lunch from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for dinner until 6:30 p.m. on Fridays. The dinner menu includes meatloaf, shepherd's pie, lasagna, fish and chips and chicken parmesan.

The restaurant is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

She acquired the former Baker Boy Town Grill in 2019, had a soft opening and then a grand opening on February 1, 2020, "just before COVID-19."

This month marks her third-year anniversary; a learn-as-I-go proposition, she readily admits.

As might be expected, the initial weeks and months were difficult. But adversity is nothing new for Ms. Swyers. "I am a cancer survivor," she said. "From that I have a very good relationship with the Lord, just grateful to be here."

She is also a veteran of the military and law enforcement.

The Family Table Diner "never closed" during the pandemic, even if this meant she had to operate with just three people alongside her at times. "There are times when I am in here by myself," when, she says, laughing, "I am the dishwasher, the server and the cook."

But she is quick to praise Karen Petersen ("she is my server and my right arm, she's been through thick and thin"), her staff, her husband (also a vet, and a firefighter) and her daughters Lindsey and Rhiannon. Her husband helped with many of the nifty decorative touches around the restaurant (a mix of signs with such messages

as "We Rent Pigs," "No fishing," "Outhouse"—with a directional arrow, old license plates, an axe, a saw, a whist board "from years ago" and a large chicken named "George" in honor of the previous owner).

Daughter Lindsey handles the website for the restaurant. Daughter Rhiannon takes care of Facebook.

In response to the virus, The Family Table Diner pivoted, as have other establishments.

"We implemented online ordering for takeout," she said. "That helped. Customers could pick up at curbside. There are a lot of teachers in the area. A lot of our food is for hungry truckers."

When a snowplow destroyed the sign to the drive-through, last year, she took it in stride. That is not surprising for a woman who is not only outgoing and friendly but enthusiastic about what she does, especially as this relates to keeping customers of The Family Table Diner happy.

There was the higher price of goods to deal with, when five gallons of oil went from seventeen dollars to more than forty dollars, and the price of a bag of potatoes for fries spiked to ten dollars—for instance. "Another big thing is if you own your own building, no overhead; I pay rent," she says.

Upon launching The Family Table Diner, she made immediate upgrades.

"Everything in back needed to be changed over," she said. She added an induction pressure cooker and a convection oven.

Homemade fare with what she refers to as "a Southwest flavor" is a staple at The Family Table Diner and that is only going to get better with access to a farm. "I have one hundred fifty chickens at a farm up the road in Douglas, for eggs. This is good because stores have been out of them."

She is focusing on "healthier options" and points to the use of Himalayan pink salt and avocados as evidence of this.

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"I talk to everyone about this place," Nico Ernst, with Cheryl Swyers, says of The Family Table Diner. In from Long Island for a few days to visit family, Mr. Ernst made sure to stop by the restaurant.

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Commonwealth raises awareness about vital safety nets available

By Christine Galeone

When people face significant financial challenges, it's not uncommon for them to feel like they're walking on a high wire. Much of their focus and energy is directed at simply trying not to fall.

Fortunately, there are "safety nets" available that can help those facing such challenges. And the Commonwealth of Massachusetts wants people to know about resources it offers to those who qualify. Two of those vital resources, the Baker-Polito Administration's Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the Massachusetts Health Connector, have recently been the focus of public outreach campaigns facilitated by Archipelago Strategies Group.

The Massachusetts Health Connector enrollment campaign launched with November business walks in East Boston, Dorchester, New Bedford and Springfield. MHC and community leaders shared information concerning how the program is the Commonwealth's health insurance exchange, where income-qualifying residents who aren't covered by employers or other sources can enroll in low-cost health and dental insurance. Open enrollment will continue through Sunday Jan. 23. More information can be found at MAHealthConnector.org or at 1-877-623-6765.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been reaching out to low-income tenants who have been financially impacted by the pandemic to let them know that they can apply for assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which is part of the DHCD's COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Initiative (EDI). "The pandemic has had disproportionate impacts on our most vulnerable communities and neighborhoods across Massachusetts, and we want to remind households in need that help is available," said Housing and Community Development



Photo: (submitted) Volunteers participate in a business walk to raise awareness about the Massachusetts Health Connector.

Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox in a recent press release. "Over the past 12 months, we've scaled up our rental assistance program to match the urgency required by this situation. With a pool of state and federal resources, a streamlined application process, and simplified criteria for eligibility, we can process more applications at a faster rate than ever before. So, we strongly encourage all tenants that have fallen behind to seek help now." People can learn more at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-housing-payment-assistance-during-covid-19>.

While both programs have had a positive impact on many people, Johnny Corson, the Communications Manager at Archipelago Strategies Group, shared a story of a family of 13 Afghan refugees that was greatly helped by the Health Connector. He said that working with a refugee resettlement agency, Family Health Center of Worcester was able to immediately perform identity proofing on the father, allowing the center to complete applications for the entire family, including

Continued on page 2

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SAFETY NETS

Continued from page 1

a pregnant woman and two people who needed medical care. He was told that the father expressed his deepest gratitude to FHCW staff for getting him and his family healthcare and health insurance through the MHC.

Although these are only two of many resources available to people facing significant financial challenges, they're two that can provide much-needed safety nets. Corson also assured that "both opportunities are available to Massachusetts residents, regardless of vaccination status."

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A hardworking staff is key to the success Cheryl Swyers has realized as The Table Family Diner celebrates three years in business.

THE FAMILY TABLE DINER

Continued from page 1

"We do a lot of combinations you don't see every day, including pairing breakfast with a lunch side, like fries," she says.

Ms. Swyers is quick to give credit to her customers, who, she says, have been "very supportive and understanding." The administrative offices of Uxbridge Town Hall too.

"She has put a lot into this place," Nico Ernst, a former resident of the area who now lives on Long Island, said, after finishing a hamburger at the counter. "Whenever I am in the area, I pop in."

Speaking from Baylor University in Texas, where she is a student, Lindsey Swyers said "I help with the menu and technical stuff. My mom has a lot of plans, like going more farm-to-table. This was a complete career change for her. I'm very proud of her."



Among the many interior flourishes at The Table Family Diner (including tables made of wood from Maine and the Douglas State Forest) is a chicken named "George," in honor of the former owner of the restaurant.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

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DIRECTORY

Submit business news and community events to news@TheYankeeXpress.com
Request advertising information: ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

Kathy Benoit, Advertising Director kathybenoit@theyankeeexpress.com
Billing and advertising information Laura Gleim Igleim@TheYankeeXpress.com
Jeremy Wardwell, Sales (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) jeremywardwell@TheYankeeXpress.com
Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) bcranon@TheYankeeXpress.com

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Sally Patterson, Production Manager Carol Kosth, Graphic Artist
Contributing writers and columnists: Peter Coyle, Tom D'Agostino, Magda Dakin, Christine Galeone, Rod Lee, Amy Palumbo-LeClaire, Janet Stoica

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Offering support beyond the road test

Business spotlight

Centerpoint Driving Academy sets itself miles apart from its competition. With its unique offerings and local ties, it's hard to go wrong.

Centerpoint Driving Academy offers classes for people of all ages, teaching them the rules of the road—with high satisfaction levels.

President Jim Beyer, a Milford native, said the ratings the company receives are top notch.

"We have the highest rating on Google out of any driving school in our area. More than 83 5-star reviews and a total rating of 4.9.

So how did this 5-star driving academy get its start?

Centerpoint Driving Academy was founded by two fathers who strongly believe that teens aren't getting enough out of Driver's Ed. With seven children between them, they've served as the point men for all auto-related problems – putting air in the tires, explaining dashboard alerts, changing tires, etc. Their kids were clueless about these fundamental skills because, as they told

them: "We never covered that."

It became clear to them that while Driver's Ed programs are helping students get their license, they are not doing enough to prepare them for what happens after they have it.

So two dads, John Anderson and Jim Beyer, started the academy.

The business, which has been around for three-and-half-years, brings joy not only to the students when they see success, but also to the workers.

"My favorite part of owning this company is seeing the joy on a teen's face when they pass their driving test on the first attempt," Beyer said.

"We offer personal services that go above and beyond," he said.

Centerpoint will pick students up from their homes, school or work.

Another area that sets them apart? The cars.

"We have several unique offerings. We are the only school to offer driving lessons with only SUVs—Toyota RAV 4s. SUVs are 50% safer than taking lessons in a sedan, per the National Highway Safety Board.

"Second, we provide a unique Life Skills class where



we bring in a police officer to address the class and a master mechanic to teach them how to change a tire, etc. This is free as part of purchasing the SUV package," Beyer said.

Centerpoint Driving Academy also has a Spanish-speaking instructor. They offer online scheduling for students to book their lessons and observation hours. There's also a portal where both the students and parents can track their progress.

A bonus that students receive is an additional free practice lesson before they take the RMV road test.

Beyer said the biggest extra that students get is some-

thing that happens after the class ends.

"We provide an evaluation after each driving lesson that is sent to both the student and the parent," said the CEO.

Another added benefit that Centerpoint offers is the background and experience to address concerns parents may have about their kids who have anxiety, ADD or similar issues. Beyer has spent 20+ years working as a school psychologist, clinician, and therapist for teens and adults. This is an expertise you don't find at your average driving school.

Don't just take the company's word for it, see what students are saying about Centerpoint:

One parent said "the company had good communication, professionalism, quality, and value."

Another parent wrote "We used a different company for my older child's driver's ed classes and lessons and weren't blown away by it so looked around when it was time for our middle child to take them. We'll definitely be back to CDA for our youngest child! Jim and crew were fabulous! Easy to work with and so good with our daughter. Dealing with a pandemic is stressful enough, never mind learning to drive in it. They were great and helped put our daughter at ease. She was confident when it was time for her license test and she passed the first time. I have recommended them to friends whose children are getting to that age. They are excellent!"

Centerpoint makes a difference in the lives of its students and its community.

For more information on how to sign up for classes or learn more, visit www.centerpointdrivingacademy.com/about-us.

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BVT holds ribbon cutting ceremony

Commemorating the opening of its Biotechnology Program as industry grows in Massachusetts

UPTON – While the Biotech industry in Massachusetts continues to grow, so does the need for talented employees. With a history of providing students with in-demand skills through vocational training, the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District officially commemorated the opening of its Biotechnology program with a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 8.

The ceremony, held in the bright new shop, began with a warm welcome from Principal Anthony Steele. “It’s a

pretty special day to have a ceremony and open a new shop. It doesn’t happen every day,” said Steele. “It’s a complex process to start a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program, and it takes a village to bring this all together. It’s an honor to welcome our first incoming biotechnology class. Forever in our school history, these 16 students will hold this title.”

Principal Steele mentioned that the renovation was primarily an in-house project recognizing the contributions

and hard work of the facilities team, who helped transform and wire the vocational space at a cost-savings for the district with the help of students.

The ceremony included remarks from Superintendent Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. “This is an incredibly joyous day to see the expansion of new opportunities, said Fitzpatrick.” Frankly, each of our 19 vocational programs upgrade every year and changes the skills sets we call competencies. So, in reality, we’re opening new programs, curriculum, train-

ing, and expertise in every program every year, and the same is true for our academic programs. While we are eager to expand new programs, we have to do so in moderation while working with our legislators to compliment available dollars and reasonably pursue grants.”

The ceremony continued with guest speaker State Senator Michael Moore. “The beauty of vocational schools is how they’ve evolved with the economy,” said Moore. “We have so much need for skilled laborers. This curriculum opens up so many doors – from the businesses that will hopefully be employing you – to the students taking up these skills – there will be many opportunities to advance yourself in the biotech sector. This program is a great achievement for the school.”

Principal Steele then introduced Vocational Director Dr. Matthew Connors, who completed the lion’s share of the initial planning and spearheaded the project. Dr. Connors explained that from thought to finish, the entire process took two years. He discussed the new technology and equipment in the lab, the future job outlook four years from now available to its students, and thanked everyone who helped make the concept of this shop a reality.



Pictured (left to right): Principal Anthony Steele; General Advisory Committee member Kristin Gothier; Biotechnology Instructor Susan Piraino; Vocational Director Dr. Matthew Connors; Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick; and Biotechnology freshman Isabelle Kling of Uxbridge.

“If ever there was a time to build a biotechnology facility, it was during the height of the global pandemic where students are interested and have a desire to make a difference,” said Dr. Connors. “There is a community need, a student desire, and an apropos time if you will, and we’ve brought that all together, which is exciting.”

To determine which student would help cut the ribbon, Vocational Director Michele Denise pulled a name. Isabelle Kling said, “I was surprised to hear my name called. It was surreal. Since elementary school, I had wanted to go to BVT, but I never thought I would be cutting the ribbon of a new shop.”

The ceremony concluded with Principal Steele, Advisory Member Kristin Gothier,

biotechnology instructor Susan Piraino, Vocational Director Dr. Connors, Superintendent Dr. Fitzpatrick, and biotechnology freshman Isabelle Kling cutting a beautiful purple ribbon.

After the ceremony, Kallie Allen of Hopedale donned a new lab coat for a quick picture with her dad to remember the moment. She said, “As the first biotechnology class enrolled at BVT, I am excited to set the blueprint in this program. A big thank you to everyone involved. I wouldn’t be in this shop if it weren’t for them.”

BVT is proud to contribute to a workforce pipeline that benefits employers, students, and communities. More information is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/biotechnology.

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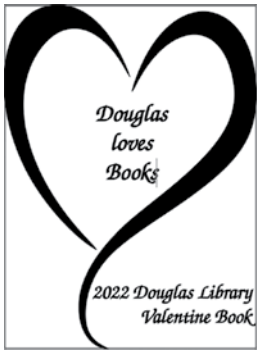
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Dean's List

BOSTON - Northeastern University is pleased to recognize those students who distinguish themselves academically during the course of the school year. The following local students were recently named to the University's dean's list for the Fall semester, which ended in December 2021.

- Douglas resident Olivia Ouellette, majoring in Architecture.
- Douglas resident Maria Darotitis, majoring in Chem Engineering/ Biochemistry.
- Uxbridge resident Casey Goyette, majoring in Computer Engineering.

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show vendors

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild has selected the following vendors to participate in their upcoming quilt show which will be on March 12 and 13 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School: Six Gable Designs of Westerly, RI; Kathie Beltz Quilt Design of Greenfield, NH; Anthony's Sewing Machine Service of Lincoln, RI; Adele Scott Design Studio of Orleans; Angel Hair Alpacas of No. Grafton; The Quilter's Loft of Dudley; SOKE LLC Stitch and Knit of Hopewell Junction, NY; Beyond the Bolt of Bristol, RI; The Fudge Lady of Uxbridge; Sue Pelland Designs of Upton; Bits 'N Pieces of Pelham, NH; Camp Wool of Milbridge, ME; Molly's Apothecary of Medway; and William's Woodshop of Mendon.



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The Samuel Slater Experience announces March 4 grand opening



WEBSTER – The Samuel Slater Experience, a historic museum featuring state-of-the-art 4-D digital technology to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and the founding of Webster, Massachusetts in the early 19th century, announced today it will be opening its doors to the public on Friday, March 4, 2022 for its first self-guided tours. A team of specialists have been busy working on the former National Guard Armory building in Webster since 2018 and are thrilled to reveal the new experience to the community and museum-goers from around the world.

The Samuel Slater Experience comprises more than twenty unique, immersive exhibits that transport the audience back to the early 1800s as the seeds of the American Industrial Revolution were sown. The museum starts with a young and conflicted Samuel Slater and his immigration to America, his success during the era and his impact on the geographic area. Guests will explore Slater's unique factory model that would transform manufacturing in America. The museum then takes you forward a century, recreating downtown Webster in the early 1900s, which has become a hub of commerce and industry.

Samuel Slater (1768 – 1835) was referred to by some as the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution." In 1811, Slater moved to Massachusetts and built new cotton mills as well as one of the first woolen mills in America, all powered by the French River and Lake Chaugoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg, in what was then called Oxford and later renamed Webster after Senator Daniel Webster. Slater brought innovation to textile manufacturing and introduced the "factory system" that attracted workers to the region and established the infrastructure that made Webster a thriving "boomtown."

"It has been our vision to bring an interactive and dynamic experience that would engage students and families

alike back to the roots of this town and area," says Samuel Slater Experience founder Christopher Robert. "We are thrilled to bring this new concept of learning to students and visitors in the same light that Samuel Slater brought technological innovation to textile manufacturing - The Samuel Slater Experience will allow visitors to become immersed in life as it once was, to feel the waves crashing on a boat crossing the Atlantic, to hear the bustling of massive machinery in the heart of a full-scale New England mill, and see life on Main Street in Webster at the turn of the 20th Century."

With the assistance of Webster town officials, museum and industrial era curators, Doug Mund's museum design expertise and his firm dmdg2, digital production mastermind Bob Noll and Boston Productions Inc., Webster business owner and philanthropist Christopher Robert has brought this state-of-the-art facility to life.

"The overall construction of the building, including many of the exhibit environments, were completed by local builders and craftsmen," says Doug Mund of dmdg2. "Only the very special props, such as the ship, were fabricated and installed from our design by museum specialty fabricators. Various other props were largely fabricated on-site by local craftsmen. Significant acquisition of period-correct artifacts were sourced for the project, many being donated by the local community."

Robert founded Webster Museums Incorporated in 2017 as a 501 (c) (3) to foster public knowledge about the history of the American Industrial Revolution in New England. The non-profit organization's first project is the completion of the Samuel Slater Experience.

Masks or face coverings will be required by all museum visitors, following state and town recommendations for COVID-19 safety protocols. Safe social distancing will be maintained throughout self-guided visits.

The fundamental purpose of the 17,000-square-foot Samuel

Slater Experience is to educate, and with that, the exhibits are designed in coordination with curriculum directors from the local school districts, aligned with approved curriculum standards in both social studies and STEM fields.

The Samuel Slater Experience received generous support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Janet Malser Humanities Trust.

Hours of Operation

The Samuel Slater Experience is open to the public year-round.

Daily Schedule:

Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m.

The museum is also open on some Monday holidays and school vacation weeks. The museum is closed on New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.

Private events and group visits can be scheduled for other days and time periods.

Visitors should plan to spend an hour to an hour-and-a-half for their tour.

Tickets and Pricing

Tickets may be purchased in advance online or onsite in the gift shop.

General admission:

Adults \$16; Students \$7; Seniors (60+) \$10; Children 4 and



Visitors will be able to create their own personalized newspaper in the Webster Times office.

under Free; Members Free. Student school trip price \$10.

Ticket purchases for school trips, private events, and groups can be arranged directly with staff. Call 508-461-2955 or email admin@samu-

elslaterexperience.org

For more information and tickets, visit samuelslaterexperience.org

Samuel Slater Experience is located in the Old Webster Armory 31 Ray Street, Webster.

A Very Special Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who was involved with the tornado relief collection held here at All Phase Glass & Maintenance Corporation in Grafton, MA, back in December 2021, to assist our fellow Americans in the south after the outbreak of tornadoes. In just four days, thanks to all of you, TOGETHER we were able to fill three tractor trailers and a 26 ft. box truck to send supplies, clothing, food, toiletries, toys, water, and more, to those who suffered losses.

The amazing support came from local residents and businesses here in Grafton, throughout the Blackstone Valley and Worcester County, and from all corners of MA, RI, CT, NH, VT, and even upstate NY. It was simply amazing to witness the display of PATRIOTISM and AMERICAN PRIDE by all of you! This just goes to show that when the chips are down and we as AMERICANS need a helping hand, we are all true PATRIOTS and PROUD AMERICANS, here to help and aid each other in times of need. You should all be ever so PROUD of yourselves! I can honestly say it would be totally impossible for me to name and thank each and every person, and all of the volunteers, businesses, public service officials, media outlets, and charitable organizations involved during this event, there were that many of you so to be safe, we send one HUGE THANK YOU to each and every one of you!

We would like to say THANK YOU to all our neighbors in Grafton, around our company, who tolerated the amazing amount of traffic, and at times, chaos. By the volume of support and traffic, we know it was an inconvenience to you and your families and we thank you for your understanding! To my family and staff, you all are my backbone and no way on this earth could this have been pulled off without your support, hard work, and dedication. I LOVE you all!

In closing, the American Red Cross is in dire need of blood donations. Please try and make the time to stop at a donation site and give blood to help our fellow Americans. TOGETHER we can make a difference! Please be sure to take a moment to say a simple THANK YOU to all our military staff both here and abroad, along with our veterans, and all the brave men and women working on the front lines and on the streets keeping us healthy and safe each and every day. They are all the true heroes.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND ALL YOUR LOVED ONES AND GOD BLESS AMERICA EACH AND EVERY DAY.

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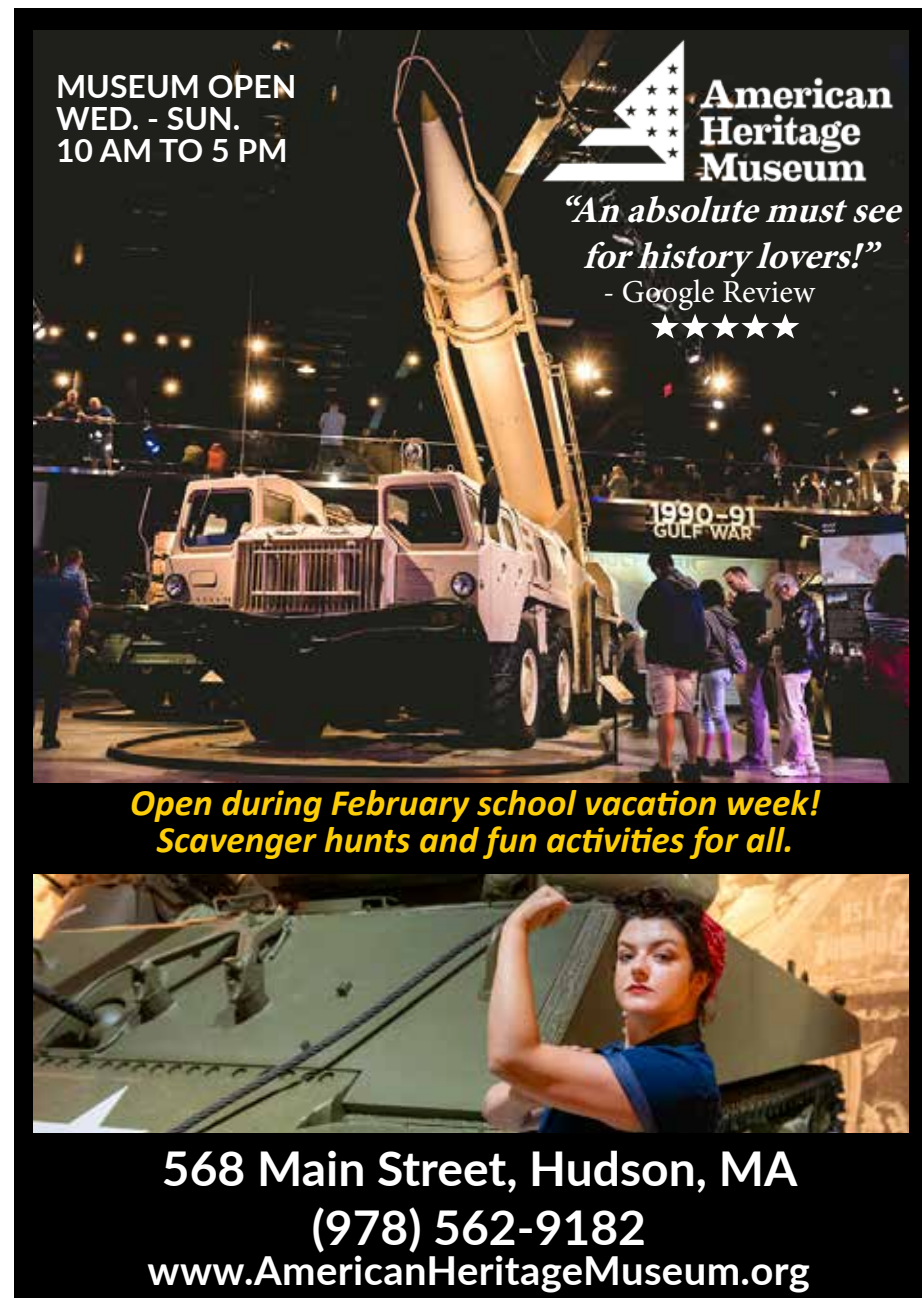
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Dean's List honors from MassBay Comm. College

WELLESLEY HILLS - The following local residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List.

• Tiffany Huth, of Uxbridge, who studies General Studies, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2021 semester.

• Allyson Columbo, of Douglas, who studies General Studies, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2021 semester.

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



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Newly expanded storage facility Key Storage opens in downtown Uxbridge

Business spotlight

By Christie Vogt, Contributing Writer

Downtown Uxbridge is now home to Key Storage, a newly expanded and updated storage facility owned by MetroWest residents Ed Kelly and Kevin Price. The 50 Depot St. facility, formerly known as Capron Self Storage, now has triple the number of storage units, and it features several updates designed to improve both access and security.

Kelly and Price, who have extensive construction backgrounds and also operate a commercial solar panel installation company, looked on self-storage as a natural fit for their next business venture. One of their solar customers, Rocco Addeo, is the former owner of the Uxbridge storage facility. Addeo had originally purchased the site with the intention of expanding and selling the property, and he involved the pair in conversations about the

facility's future. "So, Ed and I discussed the idea of jumping in," Price explains, "We ran the numbers, and they made sense. We approached Rocco and said, 'We'd like to be your buyer,' and here we are."

The Uxbridge site now has over 300 units, including a new temperature-controlled building and outdoor storage for RVs, boats and campers. Accessibility has also been improved with newly paved access lanes, full-perimeter fencing and an automatic entry gate. Key Storage offers a variety of unit sizes for both the temperature-controlled interior spaces and the drive-up units. Customers can access their unit 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and they can seamlessly rent and pay for units online at keystorage1.com — a contactless transaction that is especially appealing amid COVID-19 concerns.

In the spring, Key Storage will add solar panels to all its rooftops and will build a free-standing canopy for RV and boat storage, also with a

solar-powered roof.

In addition to these features, Kelly and Price stress that they are longtime residents, so rather than dealing with a corporate entity, customers are instead interacting with local owners who genuinely care about their experience. As opposed to some older facilities, Key Storage is brand-new, clean, well-lit and secure, they add. Customers "can feel confident that when they place their belongings in our trust that we've taken every measure to deliver a secure, convenient and comfortable facility for them," Price says.

When it comes to the local community, Kelly and Price are proud to be supporting the Uxbridge Community Gardens by sponsoring five garden plots this upcoming growing season for families in need. They will also continue to sponsor Uxbridge Skatepark, a recreational space that Capron Self Storage previously supported.

During the pandemic, with many people tackling house projects and cleaning out basements and garages,



Aerial view of Key Storage, 50 Depot St., Uxbridge.

self-storage facilities have been a great help to many households, Kelly and Price say. Self-storage is also popular with people who are in the process of moving or for college students who need to store their dorm furniture between semesters. Key Storage also rents units to other businesses like moving companies and contractors.

Kelly says they are very excited about this new busi-

ness venture, and he and Price are actively looking for a site where they might construct another facility. "The recurring income model complements our construction model," Price adds. "So, it's a great way for us to diversify." To continue educating themselves about the industry, they have also joined the New England Self Storage Association, which has been a helpful source of expert

knowledge as they dig into the field.

Kelly and Price look forward to serving more residents and encourage potential customers to visit Keystorage1.com, call 508-278-3846 or email info@keystorage1.com for more information. Their onsite office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday by appointment.

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The Outlaws to perform at Indian Ranch June 11

WEBSTER - The Outlaws will return to Indian Ranch in Webster, as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series on Saturday, June 11. Tickets are on sale at www.indianranch.com.

Formed in 1972, The Outlaws – known for their triple-guitar rock attack and three-part country harmonies – became one of the first acts signed by Clive Davis (at the urging of Ronnie Van Zant) to his then-fledgling Arista Records.

The Outlaws' live shows – vividly captured in their 2016 double album Legacy Live – are blazing 2+ hour tributes to the band's rich history and fiery rebirth. Classic tracks and fan favorites from the first three albums – as well as The Henry Paul Band's

definitive 'Grey Ghost' – share the spotlight with new songs that are already being embraced by audiences. "I think our new material goes back to those first three classic albums, when the band was proud of its influences from country, blues and jazz,"

says Paul. "Plus, Steve and Dale have honored and maybe even stepped up the legacy of the 'guitar army'. Fans are coming away from shows feeling a renewed part of the Outlaws experience."

Insiders Club memberships and GA Season Passes for the 2022 Summer Concert Series are on sale now. The Indian Ranch Insiders Club gives members exclusive access to buy tickets before they go on sale to the general public. GA Season Passes include a general admission ticket to every show in the Indian Ranch Summer Concert Series. Both programs come with an array of other benefits and are available at www.indianranch.com/memberships.

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

and pop bands steps from Lake Chagogagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunungamaugg. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddle-wheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Already on sale are concerts with Trace Adkins on June 5, The Mavericks on June 19, Get The Led Out on July 8, Scotty McCreery on July 9, and ABBA The Concert on August 12. More shows will be announced soon.

Tickets are available online at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster. For more information, visit www.indianranch.com.

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Whitinsville Social Library reopened

On January 31, the Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church St., Whitinsville reopened its doors to the public. It is recommended that all library visitors wear a mask.

Public computers, printing, and copying is available. Black and white printing is 20 cents a sheet. All programs are virtual until further notice.

The library will continue to offer Parking Lot Pick Up to patrons who request it. Please call ahead at 508-234-2151 to schedule. Please note that now that patrons have access to the building, staff will no longer be calling to schedule appointments for pick up.

Materials for children and young adults are always late fine free.

The Library encourages you to download and sign into MeeScan, a free self-check out

app, before your next visit. MeeScan allows you to check out library items with no staff contact and no lines. This app is available for iPhone and Android smartphones.

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QCC fall semester Dean and Merit Lists

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Fall 2021 Semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 537 students were named to the College's Dean's List and

881 students were named to the Merit List.
QCC's Dean's List Fall 2021
 East Douglas: Adam Gaulin, Joshua Gopin, Reilly Moran, Earl Parfitt, Michael Purvis,

Peyton Simoneau
 Uxbridge: Hailey Bergman, Antonio Demalia, Abigail Hanscom, Scott Lawrence, Jeremy Lutton, Patrick Malone, Mayra Marquez, Olivia Powell, Ryan Tonry
 Whitinsville: Julianna Borruso, Isabel Carroll, Ethan Eisenhardt, Jennifer Flanagan, Cora Gauthier, Travis Gould, Khadija Ouagri, Joshua Pinoos
QCC's Merit List Fall 2021
 East Douglas: Katelyn Balou, Courtney Barch, Caroline Beaird, Bishoy Soliman Hanna
 Northbridge: Aaron Bishop, Kyran Bishop, Krystal Bonafilia, Sarah Bowen-Catlin, Randall Cranshaw, Hillary Mellor, Erin Ostroskey, Jessica Perkins, Gregory Riley, Crystal Tardie, Amaya Williams, Anthony Zanca
 Uxbridge: Jessica Beaudoin, Julia Comeau, Kelley Crosby, Rachel Demrest, Benjamin Landry, Lubna Paul-Celestin, Michaela Randall, Nicole Remillard, Katie Vautrain
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Uxbridge Senior Center news

UXBRIDGE - The Uxbridge Senior Center, 36 South Main Street, has listed its calendar of events for the month.

Happy 100th birthday Jennie Oleksyk

Jennie celebrated her birthday on January 30 with her family and friends. The senior center wishes to thank Jennie for all of her efforts and support over the years. Jennie's name is included on the Boston Post Cane located in the Senior Center along with other Centenarians. We also presented Jennie with her own cane and Certificates of Recognition from the Uxbridge BOS, State Rep Mike Soter and Senator Ryan Fattman. Best wishes to you Jennie on your celebration of this milestone.

National Random Acts of Kindness is celebrated every February 17. It first originated in 1995 in Denver, Colorado. The idea behind this celebration is to make the world a little brighter and better through little and simple kind gestures, words and actions. Take the time to show others how much you love them and care for them. Just think how your life would change if someone was willing to give you just a little dose of encouragement and love every morning as you begin your day?

The senior center conducted a Booster Vax Clinic on Wednesday, January 12. This event was very successful and well attended. Thank you Uxbridge BOH and Salmon VNA for helping us keep our community safe.

The senior center will be undergoing construction to install our new flooring. Please pardon our appearance as we undertake this project. In addition, we may need to cancel some scheduled activities as we work on this project. We are also painting our paneling in the center and we will be reorganizing our office spaces to provide a fresh, updated new look. Thank you for your understanding.

The senior center is in need of the following donations: newly packaged napkins, paper towels, styrofoam cups, ground coffee (both regular and decaf), coffee filters, tea bags, sugar packets (regular, sweet n' low, and other brands), toilet paper, small paper plates & bowls. We thank you for your support.

Best, Lisa Bernard, Director

Thursday, February 24 - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm - "PopUp Library. Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. Call ahead to reserve your lunch.

Mondays until mid-April - AARP Tax Assistance Program by ap-

pointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule.

Friday, February 11 - 12:00 pm - Valentine's Day celebration sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. We will have Tim Brooks - The Crooner At Large, back to entertain us! Please call ahead to RSVP.

Friday, February 11 - Valentine's Version of Facebook Live Pic-tionary with Sally and Gail. Be sure to tune in to play along with us. Just go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook Page.

Monday, February 21 - Closed in observance of Presidents' Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 22.

Tuesday, February 22 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Celeste Kopech, Salmon Health VNA. RSVP to participate and to join us for lunch.

Wednesday, February 23 - 2:00 pm - Virtual craft with Sally painting snowman on slate. Go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook page to make it along with us. Kits will be available for \$5.00 each. Must sign up 1 week prior to get your kit.

Friday, February 25 - 1:30 - 2:30 pm - Facebook Live Family Feud with Sally and Gail. Be sure to tune in and play along from the comfort of your home. Just go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook page.

Monday, February 28 - 1:30 pm - "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment at the Uxbridge Senior center.

Card Game or Family Feud will be played during our Monday Congregate lunches and BINGO will be on Wednesdays.

Computer Class Tutoring every Monday - 3:00 pm *By appointment only. Students from BVT will be available to help you with your computers and/or devices. *Please call ahead to book an appointment.

Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance by calling us at 508-278-8622 to reserve your seat on the van. Masks are required and seating is limited.

Knitting Club every Tuesday, 1:30 pm - Space is limited and must continue to maintain social distancing. Please RSVP 508-278-8622.

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 10:00 am - bank and pharmacy rides. Please call at least 24 hours in advance if you need a ride. Masks must be worn as well.

2nd and 4th Thursdays - Shaws/Ocean State shopping rides. Please call at least 24 hours in advance if you need a ride. Masks must be worn and limited to 4 people on the van.

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

Zumba classes

The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to present a live 8-week session of Zumba classes for Seniors. Zumba is a fitness program that fuses entertainment and culture into an exhilarating dance party workout. This is an 8 week specialized program designed for seniors.

The program will begin Thursday, March 10, from 1:30-2:30pm at the Uxbridge Senior Center satellite site which is located at the McCloskey School at 62 Capron Street. The class will run for one hour, one day a week for an 8-week period of time. The instructor, Amy Smith, is a licensed Gold Zumba instructor. The suggested donation cost of this 8-week class is \$25.00. Checks may be payable to the Uxbridge Senior Center.

The benefits of Zumba include improved balance, range of motion and coordination. Additional benefits include increase blood flow to the brain enhancing attention and concentration skills, as well as burning calories and meeting new friends! The class would be open to all in the community including those outside the Town of Uxbridge. Interested individuals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622.

Live chair yoga classes

The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to sponsor a live 8-week Chair Yoga Class. Yoga has been shown to improve overall health when practiced regularly. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can be done while sitting. Some poses can also be done standing using a chair for support. Chair yoga can improve your flexibility, concentration and strength, while boosting your mood, and reducing stress and joint strain. Other benefits include improved balance to help prevent falls, increased energy, and improved relaxation. The class will focus on stretching, breathing, and allowing the mind to be still.

The program is scheduled to begin Thursday, March 10, from 2:45-3:45pm at the Senior Center's satellite site which is the McCloskey School located at 62 Capron Street in Uxbridge. The instructor will be Dr. David Tapscott, certified yoga instructor. Dr. Tapscott has been an instructor since 2014 and has a deep passion for yoga. As an instructor, he sees himself as a practitioner at the front of the room, offering guidance and suggestions to allow others to move along their journey of discovery. The class will run one hour, one day a week for an 8-week period of time. The suggested donation cost for this 8-week class is \$25.00 and is open to all in the community including those outside the Town of Uxbridge. Checks should be made payable to the Uxbridge Senior Center. Bring your own yoga mats and blocks, if you have them.

Interested individuals should call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information and receive their application and waiver forms prior to the start of the program. The Center is located at 36 South Main Street in Uxbridge and is open Monday thru Fridays from 8am to 4pm. At this time, for participant's safety, masks and social distancing guidelines will be adhered to. Namaste!



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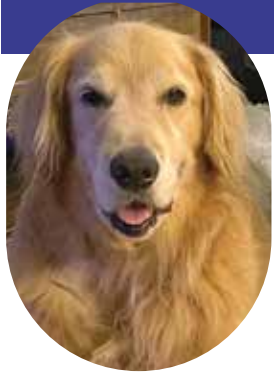
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Living ON with Lincoln Patience and OPGs

By Amy LeClaire

It's getting real. My puppy, the first of a projected two, is on its way this year. Well, almost. We are number eleven on a list we were fortunate enough to be placed on last June, thanks to Lincoln. Just as he had squared his head to the Dunkin' Donuts servers at the drive-through window, he made his presence known, again, while my husband relayed our Golden history to Cloverdale's owner. We came to find out that Lincoln's genes are actually entwined with those of her dogs. He was a Twin Beau D pup, son of Tickles and Sox, grandson of the remarkable Sir, a champion in his day. Twin Beau D and Cloverdale dogs had collaborated in the past to breed the healthy, widely admired and sought out show dogs we're about to join hands with. You're doing the right thing, Mom. This is my family. These puppies are my cousins. Of course, there's only one Lincoln, but you can do this again. You have my blessing. Just please don't give him the light blue ball.

We sent our deposit in last June and, since then, have practiced the fine art of patience while living vicariously through OPG's, that is, Other People's Golden retrievers. "Hello

sweet girl!" I visited my neighbor's sweet Golden, Ellie, and made friends with the magnificent Henry of Cloverdale (a distant cousin of Lincoln's) who came over to visit. I even became tempted (last summer) by OPL, Other People's Litters.

"Let's do it!" I took a ride with a neighbor who had recently lost her girl to check out a Golden litter just born. The experience confirmed for me the importance of researching breeders and avoiding the temptation to purchase in haste. "We can get our pups together! A friend of a friend at work says there are a few available! We're so lucky!" There was something suspiciously quick and easy about the sudden litter upon me. "I'll pick you up at noon!" But the thought of puppy playdates and puppy smells and all things puppy led us through winding, desolate back roads and, finally, to an overcrowded dog home, the stench and squalor of which has yet to leave my mind.

Don't get me wrong. An immaculate home does not necessarily translate to a happy home, for dogs or humans. Dogs are messy and hairy. So aren't people. I've seen enough college dormitory rooms (and bathrooms) to deem the lifestyle of a college student to be a public health hazard. But I'll say this. Feces does not belong on a frying pan. I have a soft spot for dogs (after all, my first column written here happens to be Why I Like Dogs More than Humans) and share the Dog Person belief that dogs love us uncon-

ditionally and deserve the same back. Amid a life that is heart-breakingly short, our pets are not stuffed animals to squeeze when we need a hug, or leave when we need to be elsewhere. They deserve attention, training, resources, and the healthiest of nutritional practices. They don't deserve to be twenty-five pounds overweight (the stud of the litter we had inspected, the Puff Daddy, was unhealthily puffy) or confined to a lifestyle designed for human needs alone. They don't deserve to be anxious and rambunctious due to improper training and attention. They deserve our best.

My neighbor and I left enlightened. The backyard breeder came with too many questions, stench, and a family tree more gangly than a skeleton. Who was the Daddy again?

Awakened by a better attitude - to be patient - I chose to live vicariously through Golden retrievers on the loose (breweries are notably full of them) which are easy enough to hang with. I held the paw of Draper, a reddish Golden from Pennsylvania, swapped Golden stories with the owner of Mable, a feisty girl from New York, and learned about Lucky, a rescue from Connecticut who found his forever home. Golden retrievers are socialites. They'll lift their chins and smile while we talk about them, as though to say, "Aren't we the best?" They listen to you. "Lincoln sounded like so much fun. I like balls too. But I'm more of a Frisbie guy."

OPGs have kept me a believer.

My husband, a technologist, copes with our dogless household by watching (and sending me) reels upon reels of video clips featuring golden retrievers with a larger Instagram following than the president.

"Look at this one!" A Golden Daddy hovers at the edge of a pool while a puppy, possibly his own, paddles and learns to swim for the first time. Another happy Golden trots across a lawn with the swaddle-hammock of a new puppy clutched in his mouth. One walks along a treadmill above a tank of water. Then came my favorite, that of two adult Golden retrievers making friends with a baby fawn in the woods. Instagram Golden retrievers are remarkable, I think to myself, but my puppy will be better. My puppy will be almost as good as Lincoln, and that's still saying a lot.

We live in an era allowing a moment in time to be caught, saved and stored. Given the appeal of the breed, taking advantage of the ability to create a snapshot to be relived over and over again is not surprising. Golden joy is contagious! Ironically, while Golden popularity grows, so do waiting lists. Patience remains the operative word. All good things take time, and all puppies deserve our best. All puppies deserve to



A visit from Henry.

live as Lincoln did. "I second that," he tells me from the sky. I smile and whisper back to him, "He'll never be you, but he'll have an extraordinary life. And he'll be loved. Oh, how he'll be

loved, Lincoln."

Stay tuned for more on Living On with Lincoln and updates on puppy news!

Write to me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com



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Tales from beyond

The Equinox

By Thomas D'Agostino

The story of the Equinox Resort in Manchester, Vermont, dates back to 1769. It originally was a tavern run by William Marsh. It was there that Ira Allen, Ethan's younger brother held a special meeting proposing the confiscation of properties owned by British sympathizers, better known as Tories, to help fund the Green Mountain Boys. Ironically, Marsh, a British sympathizer, was the first to have his property taken.

The 200-room resort opened as the Equinox in 1853 under

the ownership of Franklin Orvis. He named the inn after the tallest mountain of the Taconic Mountain Range that towers behind the structure at 3800 feet above sea level. Since then, a long list of prominent people have stayed at the Equinox. Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Benjamin Harrison were but a few. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln and their children stayed at the inn. They enjoyed the hospitality and quaint Ver-

mont lifestyle so much, they made reservations to spend the next summer there with the president as well.

A special suite was constructed for the accommodation of the first family. All precautions were made so that the president and his family would have a grand time during their stay in the Green Mountain state. The visit was not to be, for on April 14, 1865 the president was assassinated. The Lincoln family never forgot the wonders and tranquility of the area. Robert

Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham and Mary, built his summer estate, Hildene just down the road from the Equinox.

Time took its toll on the inn, and at one point the building became rundown and completely abandoned. By 1972, the Equinox was boarded up. Francesco Galesi purchased the inn and performed extensive renovations. In 1985, the Equinox reopened as a year round resort. In 1991, the Equinox opened the Charles Orvis home to guests and in 2007, the 134-guest room 1811 House became another part of the inn's accommodations. This was the home of Abraham Lincoln's granddaughter; Mary Lincoln Isham and her husband Charles from 1905 until her death in 1939.

Such a prominent and luxurious resort would not be complete without a few notable figures still roaming its corridors. The ghosts of Mary Todd Lincoln and her son Tad still frequent the hotel. Guests and staff have heard the sound of a child crying and a mother comforting it. Some have actually witnessed the ghostly pair in one of the guestrooms. Witnesses recognized Mary and her son based on a portrait. She seems to favor rooms 241 and 242, which were once combined into one suite to ac-



commodate the Lincoln family.

The Lincolns are not the only spirits thought to still tenant the resort. Some believe that William Marsh has come back to his old inn. Perhaps he is attempting to reclaim the land that was taken from him when he sided with the British during the war. Maybe it was his angry entity that rips the pillows and blankets from the bed and tossing them all over the room shortly after the chambermaids finish cleaning. This would seem plausible, as the name of the room is called none other than the Green Mountain Suite.

Others believe that the spirit of George Orvis, son of Equinox founder Franklin Orvis also haunts the inn. George was successor to the hotel after his father passed. In 1918, he strolled out to the pond to either go fishing or have a swim, no one knows for sure. Either way, he never returned. People have heard footsteps come up from behind and will move aside to let the person pass. The footsteps pass them

followed by a cold wind but no physical entity is seen.

One night the front desk received a distressing call from Room 329. Security and staff went up to check out the situation. When they entered the suite, they witnessed the lampshades slowly turning on their spindles and the rocking chairs swaying to and fro with no physical being to manipulate them. The guests were hastily and happily removed to an "unoccupied" room for the rest of the evening.

There are so many stories circulating in regard to the Equinox that it seems hard not to have a paranormal experience. Stay a weekend or enjoy dinner at one of their several restaurants. You never know who you might meet from the Equinox's past.

Thomas D'Agostino and his wife Arlene Nicholson are seasoned paranormal investigators, authors, and co-organizers of Paranormal United Research Society. You can find out more about them by visiting www.tomdagostino.com.

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Q & A with The Car Doctor

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over 40 years' experience in the automotive business and is an ASE certified master technician. He will answer reader's questions each week. You can find the Car Doctor podcast at www.johnpaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnpaul and friend him on facebook [mrjohnpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnpaul)



Q. Any thoughts on the latest Acura RDX, I'm looking at it, the Volvo XC60 and the Audi Q5. This would be a car that I plan to keep for a long time and use for carrying my bikes and commuting to work.

A. In the spirit of full disclosure, I haven't driven an Audi Q5 in several years. The previous model that I road tested had a wonderful interior, very nice road manners and had a solid feel. The Volvo XC60, depending on engine choices, delivers a nice balance of luxury and sporty performance. The Acura RDX has only one engine, a 280 horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-charged four cylinder that blends drive ability and sporty performance. If you like technology the RDX has just about every tech feature available including wireless Apple CarPlay. In the driving and comfort category I would put the Volvo and Audi as a tie with the Acura slightly below. If you are looking at long term reliability and resale value the Acura RDX is at the top of the list. Just to add to your choices you might also take a look at the wildcard in this group the Genesis GV 70. It is sporty, luxurious and has stunning good looks.

Q. I have a 2005 Honda Pilot with 208,000 miles. When it reached 195,000 miles, it started vibrating in the rear of the vehicle when I was accelerating between 30-40 mph. It goes away quickly, but happens quite frequently. The vibration noise disappears both when I accelerate and when I take my foot off the gas. I had it at the dealer for three days and they were not able to identify the noise, yet my passengers can all hear the vibration. I also occasionally hear a vibration in the front of the car. I wonder if there are two separate issues with the noise being in the front on occasion and

also in the back. I definitely hear the noise from the back of the car more frequently. Any ideas on what could be causing this? I read your all the time and I am a big fan.

A. Honda uses a very specific rear differential fluid (VTM4). This fluid is designed to work with Honda's active torque rear differential. Over time this fluid will wear out and cause a chatter. Since the dealer couldn't find any mechanical problems, ask them about changing the fluid. I have seen many cases where this will help. In regard to the noise in the front of the car, that could be the result of a loose/vibrating exhaust heat shield.

Q. In the past your advice has helped me keep my car going. I hope you can shed some light on a non-mechanical question. I have a 2003 Volvo S60, and am having a problem with the radio. At times I am unable to hold a station. This happens throughout the winter, and it is starting to happen as the weather has gotten warmer. For some unknown reason, the digital stations will scan through nonstop, or just move up or down one station. Sometimes tuning the radio with the steering wheel button helps, or else I just turn the radio off and start over. I love this car and I know it is old and cranky like me. Any advice will be greatly appreciated.

A. Volvo did issue a technical bulletin for erratic radio operation. Apparently a cable inside the CD player portion of the radio chafes and causes problems. There is no specific repair other than replacing the radio.

Q. I recently purchased a Ford dump truck that I plan to use on a construction project of a very old farm house and to plow snow on my property. When I raised the bed up, I saw a lot of rust. I had someone look at it and he banged it with a hammer and told me the frame was shot. It runs well, can a rusted frame be fixed?

A. I would find a welding shop that works on trucks. Cleaning up the rust and welding in metal should keep this truck going. Just like repairing rotten wood that requires you to clean it up and get back to solid structure, welding a rusted frame is essentially the same.

Q. I'm hoping you can settle an argument between me and my wife. She is convinced that if we use premium gas in our car we will get better fuel mileage. I see gas prices have gone down a few cents (but still expensive), but I think it is just a waste of money. What do you think?

A. If the car was designed for premium fuel and requires premium fuel, follow the recommendations of the owner's manual for the best performance and mileage. Many cars are designed to run on 87 octane regular or only recommends higher octane, if this is the case with your car, paying for premium is just a waste of money.

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Chief's corner

Reminder that driver's license expires on your birthday

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department
 I recently had a discussion with a resident about driver's license renewals. The question involved the "on-line" or

in person renewal process, particularly, as it pertains to drivers aged 75 and older. I was asked to provide some further information.

It is important to note all licenses will expire on your birthday in a given year. They are valid for five years from the birthday in the year of issue.

Renewing your license can be done at any registry office, a AAA office for members, and on-line when applicable. Currently, on-line renewals are allowed once every 10 years. If you can renew on-line, you should receive your license in the mail within 7-10 days. Anyone seeking the "Real ID" license, to use for travel etc., must appear in person and bring the correct documentation (proof of residency, etc.). There is no initial on-line process for this. Due to the pandemic, the deadline to obtain your Real ID was extended until May of 2023. If you are age 75 or older, you cannot renew "on-line." This must be done in person. This is required primarily for vision and other

screening. Good news for all driver is, whether you renew your license on the computer or in person, you can do this any time within one year of expiration. This enables people to take care of this at a time when it is convenient. The pandemic has impacted RMV operation hours in some ways, so it is important to check with the Registry to make the proper arrangements.

Drivers age 75 and over can find more information on this process at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/older-drivers>, by email at MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us, or by calling 857-368-8005. Special hours for seniors aged 65 and older are designated by the RMV on Wednesdays. Check

with them for more details.

Remember your license will expire on your birthday in a given year. It is important as that date approaches to check your license as well as other important documents (passports, etc.). You do not want to experience the unfortunate situation of not having a valid license at a critical time, say when an accident occurs. If you need a reminder to check the date for your license expiration, consider this it.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St. Dudley, Ma. 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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Mark Marzeotti

Why inflation shouldn't stop you from buying a home in 2022

If you're following along with the news today, you're probably hearing a lot about record-breaking home prices, rising consumer costs, supply chain constraints, and more. And if you're thinking about purchasing a home this year, all of these inflationary concerns are likely making you wonder if you should wait to buy. Economists explain that during a period of high inflation, prices rise across the board. And while home prices aren't immune from this increase, here's why inflation shouldn't stop you from buying a home in 2022.

Homeownership offers stability and security. Home prices have been increasing for

quite some time, and experts say they're going to continue to climb throughout 2022. So, as a buyer, how can you protect yourself from rising costs for things like food, shelter, entertainment, and other goods and services? The answer lies in housing.

Buying a home allows you to lock in your monthly mortgage payment for the foreseeable future. That means as other prices rise, your monthly payment will be consistent thanks to your fixed-rate mortgage. This gives you the peace of mind that the bulk of your housing costs is shielded from inflation.

A fixed-rate mortgage allows you to maintain the biggest portion of housing expenses at the same payment. Sure, property taxes will rise and other expenses may creep up, but your monthly housing payment remains the same.

If you rent, you don't have that same benefit and you

won't be protected from rising housing costs. As an added incentive to buy, consider that today's mortgage interest rates are lower than they have been in decades. While inflation decreases what your dollars can buy, low mortgage rates help counteract it by boosting your purchasing power so you can get more home for your money. They also help keep your monthly payments down. This is especially important during an inflationary period because you'll want to protect yourself from the impact of inflation as much as possible.

If you have cash and are expecting inflation, you want to think through where you can put your money so it does not lose value. Housing is commonly looked at as a good inflation hedge, especially with interest rates so low.

Bottom Line, the best hedge against inflation is a fixed housing cost. That's why you shouldn't let it stop you from buying a home this year. Not

sure where to start? Connect with Marzeotti Group or a real estate professional so you have expert advice and help throughout every step of the home buying process.

Lake Realty
Maureen Cimoch
 Real Estate Consultant
Cell 508.769.9211
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Maribeth Marzeotti
 Broker Associate/GRI/SRES
RE/MAX ADVANTAGE 1
 25 Union Street, 4th floor
 Worcester, MA 01604
508-864-8163
 MBMarzeotti@gmail.com
 www.MarzeottiGroup.com

Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.
 If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God.
Believer

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