

February 25-March 25, 2022

INSIDE

Newly renovated and expanded Grafton Public Library is a dazzler

By Rod Lee

If one word was used these days to describe the beautifully renovated and expanded Grafton Public Library, it would probably be "showpiece."

"Everyone who comes in loves it, so that's a relief," Library Director Beth Gallaway said on February 7 before offering a visitor a tour of the facility.

As if there could have been any doubt, given the work that went into the multimillion-dollar project, which "almost quadrupled" the size of the building, from 7200 square feet to 25,000. The rebuild was funded in part by a state grant administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

The excitement and pride that was apparent at a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Ms. Gallaway took part in on a Friday in December is still running sky high, for obvious reasons.

Julie Grace from the Library Planning & Building Committee, State Sen. Michael Moore, State Rep. David Muradian Jr., Roland Ochseubien from the MBLC, Town Administrator Evan Brassard, Selectman Peter Carlson, Aaron Vandesteen from the Board of Library Trustees, Dana Wilson from the Capital Campaign, and Ms. Gallaway all spoke that morning.

Ms. Gallaway is easily the most ardent promoter of the new facility.

She loves to tick off all that has been gained from the rebuild. Here are some examples.

-A separate teen area. "Before," she says, "it was a corner. It's for kids 12 to 18, but it's mostly middle schoolers who want to be here."

-A large community space downstairs that can seat up to seventy-five people.

-The historical collection used to be "tucked away with no security or preservation; now it's more accessible."

-"The big-ticket item, an automated materials handler and with that four self-checkouts, it does the work of three to four people, so staff can spend more time one-on-one in direct contact with patrons."

-A state-of-the-art HVAC system, "before we had radiators."

-A green roof, paid for by a donor.

-A massive historical reading room, "a great study space. We have a grandfather clock coming from the Willard museum that will go over there," she said, pointing, "and the town is going to provide us with a weights and measures cabinet."

-A staff break room, previously "a third of its new size."

-A full-service elevator.

-A new space for new books and large-print books, "usually the first place our adults come to."

-A Friends corner on the first floor, "they give us \$10,000 or more a year."

-A new children's room, with tutoring rooms, and a family room for nursing moms.

-A teen gaming room "and a donor gave us money for a patio off the teen room."

"We pride ourselves on our things," she said, pointing to shelves on the second floor that house board games, musical instruments and other items for the enjoyment of patrons.

-Bookshelves on the second floor stand two shelves high "and are expandable," she said.

-There are even water fountains.

Ms. Gallaway cannot wait for community space that is currently unavailable because of the coronavirus pandemic to be put into use. "I'm looking at March for adults and May for youth," she said. "I'm looking at what other libraries are doing" in dealing with the issue.

Right now, library patrons can come in for "direct services, computers, copies, finding materials."

She knows for sure that the community room will be utilized at least once this spring.

"I'm getting married in May on the Common and we will walk across the street for the reception right here in the community room!" she said.

She says the community room will be perfect for authors, storytellers, musical groups and many others.

"A lot of outside organizations are asking 'can we have our meeting here,'" she said. "This will be a source of income we can keep for ourselves."

The same applies to the four electric car charging stations, which

Continued on page 2



Director Beth Gallaway is joined by Karen Traub of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for the ribbon cutting.

SAMUEL SLATER EXPERIENCE

Grand Opening March 4
PAGE 3

GALLIFORD'S RESTAURANT AND TAVERN

Celebrates 5th anniversary
PAGE 8

LIVING ON WITH LINCOLN

Patience and OPGs
PAGE 11

TALES FROM BEYOND

Old York's witches
PAGE 13

There's more to February than cold and snow

By Christine Galeone

Although February is the month when New England seems to generally get the most winter storms and frigid temperatures, it's also a month that's filled with heart. Valentine's Day is the most popular of the month's holidays. And in addition to being Black History Month, it's National Heart Health Month.

We certainly don't have to look far to find a lot of heart in Grafton businesses and organizations. Recently, some have been part of heartwarming events. Others are helping people to have healthy hearts.

Last month, Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, located in North Grafton, announced that its Tufts University Police Department Officer Brett Morava and Lt. Glenn McCune had recently received the Lifesaving Award from the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators for saving the life of a person who had been working on a high-power electrical line near the school. They did so by using an automated external defibrillator (AED) to restore a normal rhythm to the person's heart - which had stopped beating after a power line accident caused the person to go into cardiac arrest. In a press release statement, McCune, who along with Morava had been trained to use



From left, Tufts University Police Officer Brett Morava, Yolanda Smith, executive director of public safety at Tufts, and Lt. Glenn McCune, after Morava and McCune received the MACLEA Lifesaving Award. (photo courtesy of MACLEA)

the AED, said, "It was only after we got the AED units that we were able to bring people back, and the AED has been used successfully on other campuses as well."

The Grafton Senior Center is trying to help seniors to keep their hearts healthy. The center just added a Tone and Stretch class to its schedule of exercise classes that includes Breathing and Healing Chair Yoga, Fall Prevention Exercise, Gentle Chair Barre Exercise, Zumba and Senior Exercise Class.

Similarly, Grafton Community Television has also been helping seniors. GCT has continued airing the center's Balance and Fall Prevention class at 10:30 a.m. every

day and Tuesdays at 4:40 p.m. The center's Fit for Life class is broadcast on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m. The classes can be viewed on Ch. 34 on Verizon and Ch. 191 on Charter.

One recent community effort brought many people together in an outpouring of care and concern. All Phase Glass Corporation, which is located in South Grafton, once again held a heartwarming and vital drive to help people in need. Michael A. Labbe, the president and owner of the company, and his wife, Carrie, united with family, friends, employees and the community to collect

Continued on page 6

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GRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Continued from front page are situated in the parking lot behind the building's rear entrance.

"Yes, these are being used," she said. "We've only made fifty-five dollars so far. It's only a little bit of money and our electric bill is a lot!"

A "catering kitchen" off the community room will be

available on a rental basis, she said.

As evidence that virtually nothing has been overlooked in establishing the renovated and expanded Grafton Public Library as perhaps the most spectacular building of its kind in all of the Blackstone Valley and Central Massachusetts, a RFID (radio frequency iden-

tifier) will help reduce the "three to five percent" of materials libraries lose each year by utilizing a marking inside the back cover of books ordered for checkout that triggers an alarm if they are claimed improperly.

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



Clerk of the Works Andy Deschenes offers remarks at the dedication ceremony for the Grafton Public Library in December.



Colorful carpet adds to the attractiveness and warmth of the children's room.



Grafton Public Library Director Beth Gallaway described the "refreshed" historical reading room as "a great study space."



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BASIC WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI 	\$8

Unibank voted "Best Bank for Business" in Central Mass.

WHITINSVILLE - UniBank, Central Massachusetts' largest mutual community bank, has once again been voted "Best Bank for Business" by Worcester Business Journal Readers for 2022. This is the 9th time the bank has earned the coveted title.

"UniBank customers tell us

that it is our personalized approach to business, commercial and personal banking and our commitment to the community that keeps them excited about their relationship with our bank," commented UniBank CEO Michael Welch. "We remain focused on our mission to make the commu-

nity a better place."

In 2021, UniBank announced the establishment of the UniBank Charitable Foundation, which the bank seeded with \$2 million. The Foundation, according to Welch, will help ensure that the bank's legacy of giving will continue for generations to come.



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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 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 Chagogaggogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg, 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 of 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 follow state and town recommendations for COVID-19 safety protocols.

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.



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

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. (1 p.m. on March 4); 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 under Free; Members Free. Student school trip price \$10.

Ticket purchases for school trips, private events, and



You will observe the children working in the mill.

groups can be arranged directly with staff. Call 508-461-2955 or email admin@samuel Slater Experience.org

For more information and tickets, visit samuel Slater Experience.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.

Sincerely,
Michael Labbe, President
All Phase Glass & Maintenance Corporation
8 Collette St., South Grafton, MA
508-839-1991

Pajama drive

The Grafton Public Library is once again joining the Boston Bruins, DCF/Wonderfund and Cradles to Crayons to collect pajamas for kids in need through February and March. Our collective goal is to collect 5,000 pairs for drop off in Newton by the end of March. Staff will be in pajamas on Fridays and Saturdays to promote the program, and have planned several special events, including a stuffed animal sleepover. Please visit the Library's Calendar of Events at www.graftonlibrary.org/events for details.

Want to help? Donate a new pair of pajamas for children and teens through March 31 at the Grafton Public Library, 35 Grafton Common, Grafton. We are looking for brand-new pajamas, appropriate for all seasons, from sizes 2T through adult medium. Please do not give pajamas that include any family or holiday references, and defer to Cradles to Crayons quality and dignity guidelines, purchasing only items that all children would be both excited and proud to wear and use.

Our most needed sizes are: girls: 5/6 (child S), 7/8 (child M), 14/16 (child XL/adult S), 18/20 (child XXL/adult M); boys: 7/8 (child M), 14/16 (child XL/adult S), 18/20 (child XXL/adult M)

Monetary donations are also accepted online through <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston/donate-now/>.

Alternatively, you can purchase pajamas through the Amazon Wish List of Cradles to Crayons Boston, and they will be shipped directly to them: https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/TJMR8JUUS0US/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_ZmsBzb6XN6MGJ?

For more information about Cradles to Crayons Boston or the Boston Bruins Pajama Drive, please visit <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston/bruins-pj-drive/>. For Library questions, please contact Beth Galloway, Library Director, at 508-839-4649 or gallowayb@graftonlibrary.org.

Beth Galloway, Director Grafton Public Library

Sutton Historical Society membership month and calendar of events

SUTTON - March is membership month for the Sutton Historical Society, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to preserving our historical inheritance for future generations.

Membership forms can be downloaded at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org and will be included in the first quarter newsletter mailed to all members. Membership is \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families. Funds raised through memberships are vital to our continued maintenance and operation of our historic properties—namely, the General Rufus Putnam Museum, the Eight Lots School House, and the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop— as well as support of our many ongoing and scheduled programs.

The Society has released its 2022 Calendar of Events at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org.

This year's events include lectures, a museum

tour, potlucks, town events, and the annual firing of "Big Ben," our Civil War cannon. The Society is honored to be hosting three speakers.

On April 26, at 7 p.m. in Blaxton Hall, Manchaug Mills, David Vermette, author of *A Distinct Alien Race: The Untold Story of Franco Americans*, will discuss French-Canadian immigration— why they came, when they came, what they faced when they arrived and in the following years, and how they contributed to this country. This presentation is relative to not only Sutton, which boasted cotton manufacturing operations in both Manchaug and Wilkinsonville, but also to the surrounding Blackstone Valley towns as this immigrant group was the backbone of the cotton manufacturing industry in the region before, during and after the turn of the 20th century.

Christie Higginbottom will share her knowledge of apples at the table and on the farm landscape in the past and will look at the revival of interest today in a presentation entitled "An Infinite Variety of Fruit: Historic New

England Apples" on September 6, at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church.

On November 1, at the First Congregational Church, Michael Tougias, author, *Until I Have No Country*, will share his knowledge of King Philip's War, one of America's first wars. King Philip was the English adopted name of Metacomb, a sachem of the Wampanoag people. Sutton has several acres of land protected through the Metacomb Land Trust. These presentations are free and open to all members and the general public of all ages.

On June 7, the Samuel Slater Experience Museum, samuelslaterexperience.org, at 31 Ray Street, Webster with a grand opening scheduled for March 4, will open to the Society. This interactive museum tells the story of Samuel Slater, known as the Father of the American Industrial Revolution and the Father of the American Factory System, from his apprenticeship in England, to his journey to America, to his becoming the founder of Webster, MA, and everything in between. Few may realize

that the Sutton Manufacturing Company, located in Wilkinsonville, was owned and operated by the Slater organization from 1829-1907. There is an admission fee for this event.

Planned fund-raising events include the annual town-wide yard sale on Saturday, June 18 and the 1-week returnable can/bottle drive the week of July 9 – July 17. Start saving your returnable cans and bottles now.

A Wagon/Cart show is planned for October 1, and the Historic Cemetery Tour in the Town Center Cemetery is scheduled for October 29. As always, we will have our locations open for the Annual Chain of Lights town event on December 6.

With so much planned, as well as continued work on our Cemetery Restoration project, the Society is always looking for volunteers to help out. Reach them at sutton1704@gmail.com and become a steward of Sutton's rich history. Event updates will be posted to suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org, our facebook page, in local publications, and emailed to members.



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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 on-line 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.

The current service areas are listed below, but special requests are always welcome.

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- Sutton
- Upton
- Uxbridge
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- Whitinsville

centerpointdrivingacademy.com
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Microwave for heating and cooking too

By Christine Galeone

As we approach the end of winter, many of us continue to crave comfort food. We may also have a tendency to want to satisfy our cravings for comfort food right away. Both desires can lead us to pick up fast food snacks or over-processed sweets that taste as good as they look – because they're frequently

loaded with sugar, saturated fat, artificial colors, artificial flavors and preservatives.

But over-processed sweets and fast food snacks can only satisfy us temporarily. In the long term, they can lead to the horrible diseases and conditions that we all dread. So, why not try a quick healthy snack,

instead? Quick Microwave Blueberry Crisp could be exactly what you're looking for.

Blueberry crisp is probably one of the healthiest desserts you can make. It's overflowing with heart-healthy ingredients, including blueberries, oats and walnuts. Cinnamon also has antioxidant properties. And

blueberries are considered to be a superfood for many reasons. They are certified by the American Heart Association to be a heart-healthy food. Loaded with antioxidants, they are believed to be beneficial in fighting cancer and in improving brain health. Additionally, the anthocyanins – which give the fruit its deep color – may have antidiabetic effects.

Quick Microwave Blueberry Crisp

Ingredients:

½ Cup of Blueberries

¼ Cup of Rolled Oats

2 Tbsp. Chopped Walnuts

1 tsp. of Brown Sugar*

Generous Sprinkling of Cinnamon

1 tsp. of Olive Oil

Directions:

- Rinse the blueberries.

- In a microwave-safe dish, mix together all the dry ingredients and the blueberries.

- Add the olive oil to the mixture.

- Cover with a paper towel.

- Microwave for approximately one minute. Let it cool a little, but serve it warm. Makes one serving.



*Brown sugar can easily be omitted from this recipe.

Is comfort food really comforting if it could lead to disease? The answer is clear. This blueberry crisp is delicious, quick and healthy. It's a snack or dessert that can bring us comfort in more ways than one. Happy (healthier) baking!

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GRAFTON

Continued from front page

and transport thousands of dollars-worth of supplies to aid victims of the recent tornadoes in the Midwest and the South. They collected and delivered items such as food, bottled water, generators and bedding.

UniBank, which has a North Grafton branch, is helping local businesses to look forward to brighter days. It's supporting them by being the Presenting Sponsor (and an exhibitor) for the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Home and Community Expo. The annual family-friendly event will return this year. It will include live entertainment,

a chowder festival, a green living pavilion and more. It will be held Saturday March 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Northbridge High School.

One new business in Grafton helps children keep their hearts healthy, since good dental hygiene is important to heart health. Pediatric Dental of Grafton recently opened and is now accepting new patients. It's located at 78 Worcester Street in North Grafton, and its phone number is 508-827-8777.

Finally, another Grafton business played an important role in a heartwarming event. Quite Fetching, the barkery and pet boutique located at One Grafton Common, provided the specialty

birthday cake that was given to Socks the Fox. The cherished resident of Worcester's EcoFarium recently celebrated his 12th birthday.

The chilly weather and the snow-covered landscapes are fleeting. But some of the heartwarming influences of February can last for years to come.

Please note that this information was correct at the time the column was written. However, because the pandemic is rapidly changing things, it's best to check the websites and social media pages of any business to see if new changes have been implemented. Contact Christine with your business news items at cmgaleone15@gmail.com.



Come work for an awesome team, and be proud of the work you do!

Job Corps is a career training and education program for students ages 16 through 24 who meet low-income requirements, designed to help students find a path to personal and career success.

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Careers Begin Here!

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce hosts 22nd annual Home & Community

NORTHBRIDGE - The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is back with their annual Home & Community EXPO on March 12, at Northbridge High School Fieldhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event boasts dozens of local businesses, available to answer questions about their services and industries. Discover what the Blackstone Valley has to offer at this amazing community event. Collect free goodies, participate in activities and enjoy the entertainment.

The BVCC is proud to host the Chowder Festival, generously sponsored by Milford Federal Credit Union. Restaurants from around the Valley will compete for the coveted "People's Choice" and "Best Judged" titles. Be sure to cast your vote and

stick around for the awarding.

There will be an expanded children's activity area featuring Bobo the Clown and his amazing balloon sculptures, games and more. Food will also be available for purchase through the NHS DECA concession stand.

Thank you to presenting sponsor, UniBank, Chowder Festival sponsor, Milford Federal Credit Union, entertainment sponsors, Gaudette Insurance, Savers Bank and Millbury Federal Credit Union, business sponsor, Package Steel, and welcome sponsor, Lampin Corporation.

Entrance is free with a downloadable ticket or the donation of a non-perishable food item or \$3 to benefit Peace of Bread Food Pantry.

Access a sheet of free tickets through this link: https://blackstonevalley.org/images/pdf/DigitalTickets_2022.pdf.

Convenient parking at Northbridge High School, Northbridge Middle School, Pleasant Street Church or Whitinsville Christian School. Shuttles will be available throughout the day to pick up and drop off visitors at each parking lot.

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing her needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

Millbury Democratic Caucus

The Millbury Democratic Caucus will be held on March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Millbury Jr.-Sr. High School, in the guidance area, and virtually on Zoom (Zoom ID tba). Registered and pre-registered Democrats, (who are age 16 by Feb. 4), are eligible to participate. Delegates and alternates will be elected to attend the Democratic State Convention which is being held on June 3 and 4 at the DCU Convention Center in Worcester.

For information on the caucus or the Millbury Democratic Town Committee contact Kevin Johnson KWJohnson_99@Yahoo.com tel. 508-865-9802.



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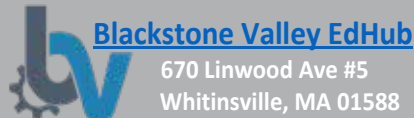
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Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern celebrates 5th anniversary in March with weekend long Mardi Gras kick-off celebration

Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern announces its 5th anniversary and are excited to mark this milestone with a weekend long Mardi Gras kick-off celebration beginning on Friday, March 4, thru to Sunday, March 6. In addition to the regular menu, guests can enjoy a delicious Mardi Gras themed menu, live music, prizes and more. On the

evening of Saturday, March 5, Galliford's will officially celebrate its 5th anniversary; patrons can enjoy a taste of Bourbon Street with a New Orleans style party; reservations are strongly encouraged. Guests visiting the restaurant now through to March 3 can enter to win one of many fantastic prizes; drawing of prizes takes place at Galliford's on

March 5. www.gallifords.com.

The Brewer family, owners of Galliford's Restaurant and Southwick's Zoo, have always put the experience of their guests first with the restaurant being no exception. The construction of the restaurant began in 2015 with an official groundbreaking in June of that year. With heart and soul invested, the restaurant opened to the public in February of 2017. The building boasts over 5,000 square feet of carefully designed space on each of the three levels, including 6,000 feet devoted to the main restaurant area, providing comfortable seating for over 150 guests. Additional spaces in the building include a lower-level private function room leading out onto a beautiful patio area overlooking the zoo grounds as well as business offices and boardroom on the top level.

Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern is named in loving honor of Robert Galliford Brewer. Robert Brewer was the patriarch of the Brewer family, and without his guidance, South-

wick's Zoo would not be the popular New England attraction that is today. His family felt naming the restaurant in his honor was a fitting tribute to his legacy.

The family and staff at Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern have worked tirelessly over the past years, including the recent challenging years of 2020 and 2021. Galliford's Director of Food and Beverage, Tracey Lamb has over 40 years of international experience in the Food and Beverage Industry and working for the Brewer family; Executive Chef Jonathon Powers, brings over 25 years of highly rated catering and event experience to Galliford's; Head Chef, Louis Forti is a seasoned culinary veteran, with an extensive resume; Banquet Chef, Stephen Soares with over 30 years of first-class catering experience; and Private Events Manager, Sarah D'Alessandro whos' invaluable years of experience includes work with the Viacom in New York City and Red Carpet Events in Las Angeles, California.

Northbridge Historical Society meeting

The Northbridge Historical Society will meet on Monday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitinsville Social Library.

A short business meeting, along with news of recently acquired materials, will be led by Society Present John W. Walker, Jr.

The evening's presentation will be an illustrated talk, the Original Thirteen, by Dick Vanden Berg, who taught history for more than forty years at Whitinsville Christian School.

What characteristics did the original thirteen colonies that fought the War of Independence share? How did they differ?

Mr. Vandenburg lives in Douglas and has a weekly blog on historical topics.



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Millbury Council on Aging news

MILLBURY - Millbury Council On Aging, 1 River St., has listed the following calendar of events.

Senior work-off program for eligible seniors, 60 or older that are residents of Millbury. Receive up to \$1,500 per year that can be used to pay real estate property tax. In return for voluntary service at a town department. For more information or to pick up an application please call the center at 508-865-9154.

COVID-10 booster vaccine appointments - We will assist Millbury senior residents. If you do not have access to a computer and need help scheduling an appointment for the Booster. Please call the center at 508-865-9154.

Senior center exercise classes

Light exercise classes Mondays and Fridays 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Free.

Tai Chi - Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. class is \$3.

Yoga - Thursdays 9 - 10 a.m. (class is \$3)

Senior Center activities

Wii bowling - Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Majong - Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

Blood pressure clinic - every Tuesday from 9 - 10 a.m.

Cribbage - Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Social Bingo - Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Bring your pennies.

Dull Men's Club - Thursdays at 10 - 11 a.m. No reservations required for any of our activities or exercise classes.

Lunches are served Monday through Friday 12 p.m. at the Senior Center. The menu is available on the town website, www.townofmillbury.org or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page. A 48 hour reservation is required.

Millbury Senior Center Transportation - Transportation is provided for Millbury Senior residents Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We travel one town out in each direction including Sutton, Grafton, Auburn and Worcester. A 48 hour notice is required for scheduling rides (business days). Rides are free until July 1. For more information or to schedule transportation call the center at 508-865-9154.

Millbury Friendly Visitor Program - Our Friendly Visitor Program is now being provided by telephone. Volunteers call clients to check in with them, chat and hear a friendly voice. For more information on coordinating a Friendly visitor call the center at 508-865-9154.

SNAP applications (Food Stamps) - Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Call for an appointment & required documentation 508-865-9154. This project has been funded at least in part with Federal Funds from USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The SNAP Logo is a service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA does not endorse any goods, services or enterprises.

St. Patrick's Day wreath making class

Join us on Thursday, March 3, 1 - 3 p.m. \$3 per person. Snacks will be served. RSVP by Monday, February 28, 508-865-9154.

House numbering

Worcester County Sheriff's house numbering program designed to assist emergency personnel in locating homes. Will create a custom wooden house number sign free of charge. If interested come by the Senior Center or call us at 508-865-9154.

Sen Moore visit

Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office Wednesday, March 9. One Wednesday every month between 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. All are welcome to meet and discuss issues of importance or looking for assistance. Any questions please call 508-865-9154.

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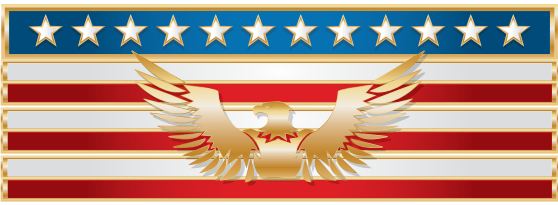


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Veterans Advisory Committee here to help

On September 7, 2021, the Town of Grafton Select Board voted to create a Veterans Advisory Committee. It is the mission of the committee to educate our residents and all elected and appointed officials regarding specific areas of interest that impact our veterans and suggest programming and outreach regarding those specific areas of interest. We also assist the Veterans Services Officer (VSO), acting as a liaison between members of the community and the VSO.

To accomplish our mission, we must work together with our local veterans and other veteran and town organizations that are already helping our community. With that in mind, we wanted to introduce ourselves, the committee members: Justin Stone, chair; Bob Detoma, vice chair; Shawn McAvey, clerk; Jim Gallagher, Lucas Remillard, and Ed Piekielek. We welcome the opportunity to work with you solving the issues affecting our veterans to ensure our they receive the care and assistance they deserve.

Please feel free to contact us by email at VeteransAdvisory@grafton-ma.gov.

Justin Stone

Country music dances

UXBRIDGE - New England Country Music Club Dance will be held Sunday March 20 featuring The Farmhands Band and Sunday, April 3 with the Rustic Country Band.

Dances are held at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge, doors open at 12:30 p.m. with live music 1-5 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub



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BVT receives STEM grant from Toshiba Foundation

UPTON - Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has received a STEM grant from the Toshiba America Foundation (TAF). The school has used the supplemental funds to purchase new MakerBot Replicator+ 3D printers and accessories for its Engineering & Robotics program.

With increased access to the most popular 3D printers in education, students can complete a wider variety of projects that foster a greater understanding of the Engineering Design Process. For example, freshmen used the

printers to reverse engineer a wooden toy truck, and sophomores designed race cars powered by CO2. In the process, students advance their creative thinking skills and become familiar with the engineering design process, from printing models to testing designs with their peers.

"Science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy. STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators,"

said TAF President John Anderson. "This grant makes the STEM classroom more exciting for teachers and students."

Sara Lewis of Bellingham, a sophomore in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT, recently completed the CO2 car project. "The creation of this car presented countless challenges, and at some points, I felt as though my design was too difficult to complete. But in the end, I made small changes to the design and created the car that I wanted," said Lewis. "The skills and knowledge learned

in this project will surely be used again and will only help me grow as a student."

"Our students are inspired and excited to learn more about the endless design possibilities in our state-of-the-art engineering lab, complete with the latest 3D printers," explained Engineering & Robotics instructor Brian Rhodes. "Increased access to innovative tools for hands-on experiments paired with inquiry-based approaches to our curriculum makes learning here exciting and fun while preparing our students for success in STEM-related careers."



Sara Lewis of Bellingham, a sophomore in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT, holds her completed CO2 car project.

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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 OPGs, 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 unconditionally and deserve the same back. Amid a life that is heartbreakingly 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, stenches, 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 Frisbee 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 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

Old York's "Witches"

By Thomas D'Agostino

New England and witches go hand in hand. Some were arrested for their "powers" while others were revered. Many of these so-called minions of the devil were feared or respected well into the 19th century, and in some cases,

the 20th century. In York and Wells, Maine, there are two famous yet true stories of witches.

Witch Trot Road would be a weird name for a thoroughfare in anywhere but New England. Reverend George

Burroughs of Wells was accused of witchcraft during the height of the Salem Witch trials. Burroughs pleaded his innocence and agreed to prove it in front of the magistrate in Danvers. The Reverend suggested a shortcut that

would bring them to Danvers much quicker. The men later believed that the witch enchanted them, then brought them to a dark forest bedeviled with evil throes of nature. When they came to a strange, high ridge, the sky grew dark and thunderclouds rumbled ominously above them.

The three lawmen became frightened out of their wits for they believed the man had summoned the powers of the devil against them. Lightning struck on all sides and the horses flew in fear, yet the shadow of Burroughs in the flashing light remained calm and steady in his journey. The party hurried through the hilly terrain as the storm grew worse. Their doom loomed in the hands of the accused witch as they hurried along what would later be called Witch Trot Road. Soon the storm subsided and Reverend Burroughs remained undaunted in his trek to Salem. Burroughs, who was arrested on April 30, 1692, was executed for witchcraft on August 19 of that same year.

The next account may be more familiar with readers of witchery and ghosts in New England.

Mary Nasson was a noted and respected herbalist in the community. It was because of her knowledge in healing with plants that she became known as the "White Witch." Mary, born in 1745, grew up in the York Village where she met and married Samuel Nasson. They had six children: Peter, William, Susannah, Samuel, George, and Mary.

She was also a skilled exorcist who rid many houses of demons and infliction in her time. Her time was rather short though as Mary died on August 18, 1774 at the age of twenty-nine, less than a year after having their youngest child.



The grave of Mary Nasson, the White Witch.

It is quite obvious she loved children as her ghost not only roams the burial ground, but the playground across the street as well. Many mothers have sworn seeing their children being pushed on the swings in the playground near the cemetery by an unseen force. When asked, the children say it is a nice young lady named Mary who is playing with them. Any local will tell you there is nothing to fear in the spirit of Mary Nasson.

Not only does her portrait adorn the top of her gravestone, there is a great granite slab between the headstone and foot stone. Legend has it that the townsfolk put it there after she died to keep the "White Witch" from rising out of her grave. There is speculation that all of the graves in the burial ground were covered with a large granite slab due to the fact that wandering livestock tended to dig up the in-

turned. Some time later, a wall was erected to keep the animals out and the great slabs were taken from the graves and used to line the top of the wall. Hers was the only one left with a stone in the far corner of the small graveyard. After her death, her husband moved to Sanford, Maine. Each family was in charge of the upkeep of their graves, but being so far away, he would not have been able to care for Mary's grave, so the townsfolk left the stone there to keep the livestock from uprooting her remains. It is presently the only grave in New England of such nature.

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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Thimble Pleasures quilt show

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to present its 2022 quilt show Visions of Hope on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, 65 Pleasant St., Upton. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Admission is \$10.00 and children 18 and under are admitted free. The entrance to the school is handicap accessible and free parking is available on site. The following COVID precautions will be in effect: masks must be worn by all visitors, hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the site, and food and refreshments will not be available. There will a diverse group of craft and quilt vendors also participating in the show.

The show will feature over 200 quilts designed and made by guild members. Also included are member quilts from Guild Challenges, Round Robins, and Youth Quilts. The show also offers a Silent Auction, raffle baskets, a Quilter's Boutique, and a

special raffle quilt. Raffle quilt tickets are available at the show and are \$1.00 a ticket or 6 for \$5.00. The raffle drawing will take place on Sunday at 4 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

This year the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild will commemorate thirty years since its creation. This milestone will be noted at the show's special exhibit, Hindsight is 2020, which will feature a look back at all of our past Quilt Show's Special Projects. This year's Special Project charity is Guiding Eyes for the Blind. There will be many pet-related handcrafted items for sale to support our donation to this charity.

Funding realized from the show will be used to assist the guild in purchasing materials for their community outreach projects, charity donations, and other special projects.

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild hopes to see you there and hopes that you will enjoy the show.

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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**

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.johnfpaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on facebook mrjohnfpaul



Q. Recently there have been reports of hundreds of people being stuck in their cars for up to 24 hours on highways in the Northeast, due to ice and snowstorms. One major complaint was that they were freezing because they "ran out of gas." There was no mention of people in all electric cars "running out of electricity." My question is: how long will the battery keep an electric vehicle warm? Also, when help finally comes, the tow truck drivers could pour a gallon of gas in the car and drive away. I assume that the electric ones would have to be towed away to be charged. Is this the future we have to look forward to?

A. Before heading out it is always best to have at least a half a tank of fuel. With a gasoline car that has seven gallons of gas, that would allow up to 20 hours of engine operation if the engine is used to just keep the car warm. With an electric vehicle I have seen reports that a charged battery can operate anywhere from 15-24 hours to keep the cabin warm. At AAA we are testing mobile electric vehicle charging now. At this point it is the equivalent of a portable level II charger that provides (depending on the vehicle) about one mile per minute of charging. In the future we are also looking at EV to EV recharging which could offer even faster charge times.

Q. I have a 2011 Scion xD with 160,000 miles on it. I was at the Toyota dealer, and they found excessive play in the rear wheel bearings. They told me the cost to replace the bearings would be \$2160. They also noted front struts are leaking and quoted me \$2152 to replace the struts. Are either of these problems something I need to deal with right away?

A. Worn wheel bearings are usually identified by noise, movement and sometimes an ABS light. If the wheel bearings are worn, they should be replaced. These are sealed units and should have no movement when checked and should be quiet when the wheels are turning. The struts, to some extent, are more of a comfort issue unless they are badly worn and then the handling could be affected. Regarding cost, the hub and bearing assembly from Toyota are almost \$500 each, if you were trying to save some money you could use a quality aftermarket part which is about half the price.

Q. I drive a 2013 Hyundai Elantra 4 door. I have been taking it to a dealer for oil changes to make sure the warranty is maintained. They have been great for years, but they had staffing changes. When I got home, I checked the fill when it was cold. The level was up onto the round part of the dipstick. I called and spoke to the service manager. He told me it was fine to be that full. I then asked why it says do not overfill on the stick. At that point he basically told me that he knows more than the car manufacturer. I then checked my wife's 2009 Elantra which they did about six months before. It was also way over full. It seems like they just dump five quarts (the manual says four liters) into any car. The web seems to have many different opinions on whether this is bad or not. I don't know which ones to trust. I trust yours. Would you mind weighing in on this, please?

A. I believe oil level is extremely important. The proper oil refilling procedure on your car would be to add four quarts of oil, start the car, check the oil and then add oil to the full mark. Regarding checking the oil, the proper procedure is to get the engine up to operating temperature, shut it off, let it sit a couple of minutes (to allow the oil to drain back into the oil pan) and then check the oil.

Q. I have 2009 Toyota Matrix with only about 29,500 miles on it. I always use regular gas, but once in a while I fill it with the next grade or super for a "treat." I find the car a bit peppier when I do, but it's good with regular too. Any harm or benefit to this?

A. At AAA we have tested using premium fuel in cars that don't require it and found no difference in performance. One reason you may see some performance difference is a combination of low mileage and age may have caused a carbon build up in the combustion chamber,

essentially raising the engine compression slightly. The higher-octane fuel helps prevent engine detonation and adds a little pep. Better would be to use TopTier fuel (toptiergas.com) which has extra additive to help clean carbon deposits that build up in the engine.



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QCC 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
 Grafton: Isabella Adams, Tyler Charpentier, Ryan Davidson, Christina Duggan, Olivia Lee, James McGilloway, Brianna Mishado, M'Leia Sweeney, Audrey Ziegler
 Millbury: Melanie Bazillion, Brenna Berube, Elizabeth Chagnon, Brandon Charbonneau, Kennedy Day, Kelsey Graves, Ivie Lapointe, Brianna Poske, Rosalie Powers, Syd-

ney Westerlind
 South Grafton: Nicholas Lima, Amanda Palmieri, Nicholas Waller
 Sutton: Sarah Beachman, Aliyssa Courville, Katherine Fields, Disha Khanna, Rachel Peters, Nathan Posterro, Alexandra Richard
QCC's Merit List Fall 2021
 Grafton: Joseph Brenner, Alison Burough, Andrea Carenzo, Jack Cosseboom, Zoe Davis, Debokkawe Pannasiri, Tyler Peters, Elisabeth Spencer, Bradley Sylvestre, Tracy Torteson, Jayce Walker, Lauren Wareham
 Millbury: Sandra Bravo, Jacob Brodeur, Samantha Brooks, Indigo Cadorette, Stefanie Cer-

rone, Gina Chionchio, Kyliegh Corey, Tara Cudmore, Kristen Curran, Christian Donaldson, Wesley Hutchinson, Amanda Macedo, Lauren Manzello, Hannah Sarro, Myles Schaffer, Yidan Song
 North Grafton: Fadi Alkoht, Sheraz Awan, Bridget Burke, Tracy Francis, Amanda Johnson, Rabia Mateen, Kali Sage
 South Grafton: Esha Batchu, Kathryn Branda, Vaishnavi Chebrolu, Veda Dave, Anthony Fisher, Nicholas Fobert, Thomas Fobert, Hanna Peron, Jesalee Roberts
 Sutton: Kayla Kachadoorian, Matthew Kearney, Kailey O'Neil

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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

When you're selling any item, you usually want to sell it for the greatest profit possible, right? That happens when there's a strong demand and a limited supply for that item. In the real estate market, that time is right now. If you're thinking of selling your house this year, here are two reasons why now's the time to list.

1. Demand is very strong this winter. Spring, the hottest time of year for homebuyers and sellers, has started early, according to REALTORS and economists. . . . Home shopping season appears to already be in full swing!

REALTORS in the field aren't the only ones saying buyers are already out in full force. That claim is backed up with data released last week by ShowingTime. (ShowingTime is a platform real estate agents use to schedule appointments.)

The Showing

Time Showing Index tracks the average number of monthly buyer showings on active residential properties, which is a highly reliable leading indicator of current and future trends for buyer demand. The latest index reveals this December was the most active December in five years.

As the data indicates, buyers are very active this winter. Last December, saw

Want top dollar for your house? Now's the time to list it

even more showings than December of 2020, which was already a stronger-than-usual winter. And remember – you want to sell something when there's a strong demand for that item. That time is now.

2. Housing supply is extremely low. Each month, realtor.com releases data on the number of active residential real estate listings (listings currently for sale). Their most recent report reveals the latest monthly number is the lowest we've seen in any January since 2017. And don't forget, the best time to sell an item is when there's a limited supply of it available.

Even though supply is at a historic low, home sales are at a 15-year high. According to the latest Existing Home Sales Report from the National Association of Realtors (NAR), existing-home sales totaled 6.12 million in 2021 – the highest annual level since 2006. This means the market is hot and homeowners are in a great place to sell now while sales are so strong.

The ratio of buyers to sellers favors homeowners right now to a greater degree than at any other time in history. Buyer demand is high, and supply is low. That gives sell-

ers like you an incredible opportunity.

Bottom line If you agree the best time to sell anything is when demand is high and supply is low, contact Marzeotti Group or a local real estate professional to discuss listing your house today.

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