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SPRING HOME & GARDEN
A Special Pull-out Section



Excitement builds for Millbury’s fifth annual Food Truck Festival

By Rod Lee

The 1880s-era clock that the Millbury Redevelopment Authority purchased for placement in the center of town is still ticking like the quality timepiece it has been from the start—and the MRA’s fifth annual Food Truck Festival & Craft Fair is back as

well after a three-year hiatus.

Talking in his shop on Juniper Drive on April 5th, Leonard Mort, who describes himself as “an old-school sign maker,” said the event is scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd. It will be held rain or shine from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the rear parking area at Millbury High School on Martin St.

A fundraiser for the Authority, the Food Truck Festival promises “something for everyone,” including street food, entertainment, crafters, vendors and raffles.

Admission is five dollars. Children under twelve get in free. Attendees will get a chance to vote “The People Choice’s” for “best food truck” and

they will have plenty to choose from.

The Food Truck Festival was last held in 2018. It has proven to be a popular attraction, Mr. Mort said. The Authority is thrilled to be able to stage it once again.

“It’s grown considerably since the first one,” he said. “The first year, we had five food trucks. Now they’re clamoring to come. We ask ourselves, ‘how many different food trucks can you have?’ We never had that problem before. The comments on Facebook have been outstanding.”

The weekend before Memorial Day was selected as a perfect late-spring date for the event, so as not to conflict with other seasonal happenings.

Food-truck operators who are participating in this year’s Food Truck Festival will be offering a smorgasbord of fare including Mexican, Japanese dumplings, barbecue, hot dogs, shaved ice, Italian, sweets, Korean and cannoli—to name a few.

Established in 1963, the Millbury Redevelopment Authority is an elected board of five unpaid municipal employees. “We have eminent domain status,” Mr. Mort said. “We accept donations of property which can be rehabbed and rented or sold. We can keep the funds and use them for other projects. The members of the Authority have donated thousands of hours to the community.”

An election to fill two vacancies on the board was scheduled to be held April 26th. Terms on the Millbury Redevelopment Authority run for five years.

About ten years ago, in search



More than a dozen food trucks will take part in the Millbury Redevelopment Authority’s fifth annual fundraising festival this year. Sun Kim Bop, which specializes in Korean fare, is defending “People’s Choice” for best food truck.

of “a project,” the MRA decided to raise money through donations provided by businesses and residents for a clock that would occupy a prime spot in Millbury Center. Acquisition of the clock from a company in Medfield was an expensive proposition but it has been an impressive addition to the downtown landscape. The clock bears the words “Armory Village” on its face in tribute to the part of town in which it is situated. An interpretive display was incorporated into the spot at the intersection of Elm, Main and
Continued on page 2

A Sunday drive, a search for treasure

By Rod Lee

What started as a slow morning on the occasion of Primitive Goods in Uxbridge’s fifth anniversary celebration two Sundays before Easter got much better later on.

“It was a beautiful day for a drive,” Karen Shaw of Holliston, accompanied by Joe Baskowski, said, as they looked over an ancient hardcover book in Jeanne Silvia’s store on Mendon St.

“We like this place,” Mr. Baskowski said. “We like Frenchmen’s Boulevard in New Bedford too. It’s right on

the water, first floor, it’s an actual old train station.”

Ms. Silvia needn’t have worried about the kind of response her event would get. By afternoon, customers were coming in.

“I come here every weekend,” Tracey Lebel of Milford said. “I’m just looking for whatever catches my eye.”

“I shopped here one other time,” Carla Chatterly of Sterling, Connecticut said. “I’m finding some goodies!”

Melissa Nydam of Northbridge is quite familiar with Primitive Goods, and is a frequent presence.

“I clean the bathrooms,” Ms. Nydam, who described herself as “the youngest of six Nydam children,” said.

When she realized that the person she addressed thought she was kidding about the reference to janitorial labors, Ms. Nydam said “I do clean the bathrooms, for Jeanne. We usually barter in exchange but today I’m buying. She’s wonderful, and the place is so cute.”

One of a number of antique and gift shops in the town of Uxbridge, Primitive Goods has made a place for itself with birdhouses, vintage signs, kitchen paraphernalia including spoon racks,

towel racks, woven baskets, pottery, shelving, furniture, and a host of other hard-to-find items.

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

“I grew up in Grafton,” Joe Baskowski said, in explaining why he and Karen Shaw decided to visit Primitive Goods in Uxbridge. Here they are checking out a book in one of many rooms loaded with merchandise.



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FOOD TRUCK FEST

Continued from page 1



So. Main streets, recently. "Myself and two other sign painters gold-leafed it," Mr.

Mort said, of the clock. The gold leaf that came with it was "dull," he explained.

"Gold leaf gilding has gotten to be a lost art."

The Authority is already looking for another project to take on. The Food Truck Festival will help cover some of the

costs that remain from buying the clock, and point the way forward for a new undertaking.

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



Len Mort, who chairs the Millbury Redevelopment Authority, created the trophy that will go to this year's winner of the fifth annual Food Truck Festival & Craft Fair on May 22nd.

Left, The Millbury Redevelopment Authority purchased this handsome 1800s-era clock (left) and donated it to the town for placement in the heart of downtown.

St. Patrick's offers recycling on May 7

St. Patrick's Spring Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at 7 East St. in Whitinsville from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Profits will benefit upcoming Youth in Action (YIA) service projects.

Residents are asked to keep items for each station separate.

On-site paper shredding. 9:00-11:00 a.m. only; \$7 per copy paper-size box, no X-rays, binders, binder clips, hanging folders, notebooks, plastic, cardboard or magazine.

Electronics recycling for a fee. No batteries/light bulbs/propane tanks. All equipment must be bone dry of oils/liquids.

Bottle and cans. Please rinse. Items must be returnable in MA.

Textile collection. Clothing, handbags/totes, accessories, linens, shoes, blankets, window treatments, etc. No rags/rugs, toys/books, mattresses or housewares. Items must be gently used (no stains) and in a condition to be resold.

Residents who are unable to attend or who want more information are asked to call 508-234-5656 or email officesupport@mystpatrick.com.



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2nd Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford and Webster, 1/2 all addresses.
2nd Friday BLACKSTONE VALLEY South: Douglas, Northbridge and Uxbridge.
4th Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford and Webster, other 1/2.
4th Friday BLACKSTONE VALLEY North: Grafton, Millbury and Sutton.

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The Newspaper Press, LLC / contents copyright 2022
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A new beginning for an old goat

With the attainment of a certain "seniority" comes appreciation for opportunities that present themselves when they are least expected.

The chance to take on challenges and responsibilities that would seem to have been available only to a younger version of oneself invokes a feeling of gratitude that is hard to describe. In the figurative sense it is like turning the clock back.

For me, a career that began in my hometown area of Binghamton, New York in the summer of 1965 marches on, as I transition from "freelance writer" to "editor" of The Yankee Xpress and the Blackstone Valley Xpress (North and South) for The Newspaper Press LLC.

Over the years, I have worked for a number of companies, including Citizen Group Publications in Brookline (the job that brought me to Massachusetts, in 1985) and the Telegram & Gazette in Worcester (1998-2009). The privilege of being able to do what I like best—write—has been complemented



by a chance to forge friendships with people in the Blackstone Valley and Central Massachusetts who represent, literally, all walks of life.

Those of us in journalism understand that the most rewarding aspect of our work is having "front-row" access to press conferences, grand openings, ribbon cuttings, business milestones, major news announcements—and local, regional and national

celebrities (I have met my share, including Hall of Fame Golfer Gary Player, whom I interviewed in the clubhouse at the B.C. Open in Endicott, New York, in 1974).

All of this brings us, me, to the present day. I look forward to sharing this column with readers, going forward.

Rod Lee can be reached at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

Almost time to plant, Grafton gardeners

With March going out like a lamb, it won't be long before we can plant our tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. The Lee Knowlton Community Garden, under the auspices of the Grafton Garden Club Inc., is accepting applications now from Grafton residents who would like to reserve their own garden plot (20' x 20'). The yearly rental for one plot is \$20.

Located off Estabrook Road, each plot is large enough for a substantial garden. The entire garden is fenced to keep garden predators, like deer, out. Each

gardener's responsibility is to gently turn over the soil, when it has sufficiently dried out.

In May, after the threat of frost has passed, gardeners can plant vegetables, herbs, flowers and/or berries. Tender plants will need to be watered and weeded once or twice a week, depending on the weather. Gardeners need to supply their own tools and water.

To sign up for a plot, go to the Grafton Garden Club website at www.graftongardenclub.org. Click the Community Garden link and go to Apply. Fill out the forms and mail them

with your check to the Grafton Garden Club, PO Box 453, Grafton MA 01519.

Call Dick Kirejczyk, manager of the Community Garden, at 508-839-4867 or email him at rjk185@yahoo.com with questions or for more information.

The Community Garden was established to promote and support local horticulture for the residents of Grafton. The Garden Club encourages the local production of food and promotes the educational benefits of agriculture.

(Article submitted by Helen Blazis)

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9:00am to 2:00pm

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Projection TVs	\$30.00 each
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There is no limit to the number of items disposed of at one time. Make checks payable to: Killdeer Island Club Inc.

We welcome surrounding towns to take part in this event!

Recycling will prevent CRT containing devices from becoming hazardous waste. CRTs may contain several pounds of lead, which is a toxic substance. When CRTs are broken or destroyed, such as when placed in landfills or incinerators, they release lead into the environment. When recycled, TVs and computer monitors can be used as a source of lead, as well as precious metal found in circuit boards, power supplies and the like.



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BVT's Ireland-themed fundraising dinner a great success

UPTON – Irish eyes were smiling at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School's 28th Annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner held at the school on St. Patrick's Day. There were many smiles and a lot to celebrate.

Each year, students in the Culinary Arts program look forward to the Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner, a culmination of months of preparation. The planning and production of the gourmet dinner give students a taste of what skills are necessary for success in the food, beverage, and hospitality industry. As well as celebrates the quality of career and technical education with a

lavish reception and an elaborate gourmet dinner. This fine-dining experience is the school's largest fundraiser.

This year, the first course of the evening was a delicate and creamy potato and leek soup made with house-made chicken stock, topped with crispy fried shallots, snipped chives, and a drizzle of herb oil. An Irish salad was the fifth course served. Influenced by seasonally available ingredients, a blend of arugula and baby spinach tossed with Gala apples, pickled red onion, goat cheese, and tarragon vinaigrette topped with beautiful slices of vibrant red and golden beet for a splash of

color. After the deconstructed Irish stew, the final course was an apple cake. The tender and flavorful cake complimented by a Baileys burnt caramel sauce, apple chutney, and house-made vanilla custard ice cream was a sweet ending to a perfect meal.

The gourmet dinner was established to support technology advancement at the school and, through the years, many initiatives benefiting student learning. Since 1995, the annual dinner has raised awareness of vocational-technical education by showcasing the skills of the shops involved. Each year, during the first few weeks of the school year, Culinary Arts seniors complete



a rigorous selection process that consists in nominating and voting on a theme for the dinner.

Subsequently, the menu and decorations are all based on the selected theme.

The Culinary Arts program has produced dinners with a wide variety of themes, from "The New Millennium" in 2000 to "A White House State Dinner" in 2009, and across the United States from Las Vegas to Hollywood and New England to Hawaii. Around the globe, they've gone from China to the Roman Empire, and France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Moscow, and this year they enjoyed Ireland.

Over the years, the themed dinners have included events such as a "Kentucky-Derby" meal in 2017, which brought the "greatest two minutes in sports" to life by celebrating the food and culture surrounding the nation's longest continuously held sporting event with a menu of authentic southern fare. In 2015, the food and culture of the 1920s was celebrated with a dazzling Gatsby-themed dinner, worthy of approval from the Great Gatsby himself.

"The gourmet dinners that our Culinary Arts program has expertly prepared, plated, and served against magnificent backdrops through collaboration with other departments and shops over the years have been remarkable," said Superintendent-Di-

rector Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick.

While a large group of students and staff contributes to the success of each dinner, key personnel make up the Executive Board in Culinary Arts. The executive positions include a food crew with a General Manager, two Executive Chefs, two Executive Pastry Chefs, and two Garde Mangers responsible for cold food. In addition to a Beverage Manager, Sous Chef, Banquet Managers, Photographer/Social Media, Emcee, and Decorations Facilitators. This team works together to achieve the same goal: a successful dinner.

Meet the 2022 Superintendents' Executive Dinner Team:

General Manager, Samantha Stephens of Mendon

Executive Chefs, Natalie Lambert of Millville and Nolan Holt of Uxbridge

Banquet Managers, Makala McQuestion of Blackstone and Sofia Yitts of Grafton

Emcees, Amanda Wallace of Sutton and Ansha Khan of Northbridge

Beverage Manager, Colin Buckley of Bellingham

Decorations Facilitators, Katelyn Barrows of Northbridge and Erin Morrissey of Douglas

Executive Pastry Chefs, Emily Warner of Uxbridge and Alex Mach of Uxbridge

Garde Mangers, Darlene Johnson of Northbridge, and Kymber Morin of Douglas

Photographer/Social Media, Allison French of Northbridge

Sous Chefs (juniors), Leyla Hudson of Northbridge and Makayla Duntun of Sutton

Pastry Sous Chef (junior), Naomi Tsuda of Mendon

Check out all of the delicious details that made this annual event successful: www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/superintendentsdinner2022.

Poetry front and center at Grafton PL this month

April is Autism Awareness Month, National Poetry Month, Native Plant Month and green-themed Community Read time at the Grafton Public Library, according to Director Beth Galloway.

Poetry

All month. Passive program. Online magnetic poetry at magneticpoetry.com/pages/play-online, select a set then drag and drop words to create a poem; when done, click the Save & Share button, complete the form to share the emailed poem on social media and tag #graftonpubliclibrarypoetry. Participants receive a free library magnet.

Expansion update

The GPL continues to wait for counter and sink lowering, window decals, emergency exit

signs with a wheelchair symbol, the gate for the stairs and doors for the maker space and Presentation Area in Community Room B. Out-of-scope initiatives include additional shelving for the Children's Room, repair of the clock in the Historic Reading Room, donor signs, wetland signage, hours signage, delivering of the piano, art rail install, office shelving, additional IT wiring and patio furniture and lighting—and landscaping!

April is Remembrance Month

Cilka's Journey by Heather Morris, a moving World War II story of a sixteen-year-old girl, is a featured selection; and check out the library's Remembering the Holocaust display.

Summer Fun & Field Trips

WEEKLY THEMES

Sail Away, Under The Sea, All American, Holidays/Spirit, Fiesta, Great Outdoors, Summer Olympics, Mad Science, Amazing Animals, Jurassic Week, Back to School Carnival

FIELD TRIPS

Douglas Water Slides, Southwicks Zoo, Ecotarium, Woo Sox Baseball, Fairwoods Recreation (New), Pinz (New), and Pout Pond.

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Rock legends scheduled to perform at Indian Ranch

WEBSTER - Rock legends Collective Soul and Switchfoot are coming to Indian Ranch in Webster, on Saturday, August 6, as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Tickets are on sale at www.indianranch.com.

Multi-Platinum Atlanta rockers Collective Soul -- Ed Roland (vocals/guitar), Dean Roland (rhythm guitar), Jesse Triplett (lead guitar/background vocals), Will Turpin (bass/background vocals), Johnny Rabb (drums/background vocals)-- are known for their collection of hit songs like "Shine," "Run," "December," and "The World I Know."

Collective Soul's highly anticipated and critically acclaimed tenth studio album, *BLOOD*, was released June 2019. It garnered impressive debuts on various Billboard's charts, including #3 on the "Alternative Albums" chart. Elsewhere, it debuted at #4 on the "Independent Albums" chart, #5 on the "Rock Albums" chart, #12 on the "Digital Albums" chart, #15 on the "Top Current Albums" chart, and #19 on the "Internet Albums" chart.

Switchfoot -- Jon Foreman (vocals, guitar), Tim Foreman (bass), Jerome Fontamillas (keys, guitar) and Chad Butler (drums)-- has sold almost 10 million copies worldwide



Collective Soul



Switchfoot

of their twelve studio albums (including their 2003 double-platinum breakthrough *The Beautiful Letdown* and 2009's Grammy Award-winning *Hello Hurricane*), racked up a string of Alternative radio hit singles, and performed sold-out tours with over 5 million concert tickets sold in over 40 countries around the world. Fans can expect to hear favorites that span Switchfoot's illustrious 20+

year career including "Dare You To Move," "Meant to Live," "Love Alone Is Worth the Fight," as well as selections from the GRAMMY-winning band's latest album, the acclaimed *interrobang*, released in August 2021.

Collective Soul singer/guitarist Ed Roland can't wait to get the tour started. "It's always a thrill to go on tour, but this year is going to be so special

because we get to be with not only our friends but a great band, Switchfoot! Southern boys meet Southern California boys, which will be a fun time for all!"

Switchfoot singer/guitarist Jon Foreman couldn't agree more. "Been fans of Collective Soul and their songs from day one. Can't believe it took this long for us to finally tour together. Psyched it's finally happening!"

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

goggchaubunagungamaugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Already on sale are concerts with Trace Adkins on June 5, The Outlaws on June 11, The Mavericks on June 19, Michael Franti & Spearhead on July 2, Get The Led Out on July 8, Scotty McCreery on July 9, Little River Band on July 17, Three Dog Night on

July 24, The Pike Hairfest on July 30, TESLA on July 31, "Weird Al" Yankovic on August 5, 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.

BRWA film explores history, identity of Pakachoag

A forty five-minute film, *Packachoag: Where the River Bends*, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 in Community Rooms A and B of the Grafton Public Library, as part of the Blackstone River Watershed Association's annual meeting.

The viewing will be followed by a Q-and-A with Colin Novick and Cheryll Toney Holley. A brief business meeting will precede the presentation at 6:30 p.m. for the election of officers and to welcome new members to the Board of Directors and new members to the BRWA.

Where the River Bends is a documentary that explores the history and identity of Pakachoag, the largest of three Nipmuc villages that make up present-day Worcester. Pakachoag centers on the large hill in South Worcester that is now also the site of the College of the Holy Cross, Quinsigamond Village and part of Auburn.

The film explores the area before, during and after Colonial contact, including how the growth of Holy Cross has engaged with and erased that history.

Produced by a team of pro-

fessors and creatives at Holy Cross in collaboration with the Greater Worcester Land Trust, the film describes the connection of the Nipmuc people to the land of Pakachoag Hill and to the Blackstone River that bends around it.

Viewers will be led on a walking tour of important Nipmuc sites such as Pakachoag Spring and "Kattatuck," the original name of the Blackstone River. Thomas Doughton (Nipmuc), senior lecturer at Holy Cross in the school's

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Colin Novick, environmental historian and executive director of the Greater Worcester Land Trust, lead the tour. Cheryll Toney Holley, leader of the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc, gives testimony to the Nipmuc presence in the Blackstone Valley today.

The BRWA is offering this event with a virtual option. Contact info@thebrwa.org or call 508-278-5200 with questions or for more details.

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Shine Your Light Chalk Festival is May 12



Student artists at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) will get creative for a cause by sharing their personal stories through their artwork to help raise awareness of mental health and support teen suicide prevention.

Art Heals: Shine Your Light Chalk Festival on Thursday, May 12, is all about the healing power of art. The school campus at 65 Pleasant St. in Upton will come alive with color, creativity and meaning as student artists create unique sidewalk chalk murals that reflect their mental health stories on the theme of

light and how “art heals.” In collaboration with the School Based Health Center, they will showcase art as a positive way of expressing emotions, diminishing negative feelings and thoughts.

Later that evening, the community is welcome to attend an

evening chalk walk from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to view the completed masterpieces. The event is free and open to the public.

This event is possible in partnership with BVT’s Visual Arts Department and School Based Health Center and supported by grants from Grafton,

Mendon, Milford and Millville cultural councils (Mass. Cultural Council’s Local Cultural Councils Program).

Chalk work like this will be on display at Blackstone Valley Tech on May 12.

BVT students earn 102 SkillsUSA Medals at District V Competition

UPTON – Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School students had an opportunity to test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools during the first of three SkillsUSA competitions. On March 16, 218 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their knowledge in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety, student-competitors from BVT proudly claimed 33 gold, 37 silver, 32 bronze medals and swept 11 categories.

Seventy-seven students will advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented vocational-technical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition held at BVT in late April. An additional twenty-eight students will go directly to the state competition, and twenty-five student delegates will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

BVT students who earned medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference from Grafton, Millbury and Sutton are:

Grafton
Gold: Noelle McDonald, Carpentry
Silver: Stephen Bayreuther, Mechatronics; Baraka Consuegra, Mechatronics; Juliana Errara, Medical Math; and Owen Mathieu, HVAC/R
Bronze: Sophia Yitts, Restaurant Service
Millbury

Gold: Julia Allain, Medical Math; Nicole Boucher, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Liam Meyer, Telecommunications Cabling
Silver: Brooke Maguire, First Aid/CPR; and David Perry, Plumbing
Bronze: Natalie Rutkiewicz, Esthetics
Sutton
Gold: Benjamin Judson, Automotive Refinishing Technology; and Brenna Kehowski, Medical Terminology
Silver: Makayla Dunton: Restaurant Service; Samuel Judson, Technical Drafting; and Camilla Moroney, Nurse Assisting
Bronze: Ryan Cyronak, Additive Manufacturing; Ethan Gervais, Team Works; Ryann Lombardi, Basic Health Care; Caroline Martin, Urban Search & Rescue; and Marcel Peladeau, Welding

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Healthier baking in the Blackstone Valley

Grapple Pie

By Christine Galeone

These days, it seems like everyone is grappling with something. If it's not a health, personal or professional issue, it's a national or global calamity that we're wrestling with in some way. But while we're grappling with whatever it is, we could all use a bit of comfort.

And what's more comforting than a warm slice of homemade pie? Only a warm slice of healthier homemade pie. Grapple (grape apple) pie seems to be the ideal solution.

Until recently, I had never heard of grape apple pie. But I'm glad that I did. All four of the simple ingredients in this recipe have health benefits.

In addition to being rich in copper and vitamin k, grapes contain several other vitamins and minerals. They also contain anthocyanins, which seem to be beneficial for our hearts. And they contain the phytochemical known as resveratrol, which might be helpful in improving the health of arteries. Resveratrol may also help improve cognition, making grapes brain healthy as well as heart healthy.

Apples are heart healthy as well, and they are believed to also be beneficial for lung health. Cinnamon has antioxidant properties. And cardamom, which is a source of vitamin c, riboflavin, niacin, magnesium and potassium, has anti-inflammatory properties and can protect against oxidative stress that causes various health conditions.

The recipe below is also

healthier because it contains no added sugar. And making the



pie crust from scratch is healthier than buying processed refrigerated unbaked pie crusts.

Grapple Pie

Pie Crust Ingredients:

2 Cups of Flour
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup of Butter (melted to the consistency of shortening)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Baking Powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Salt (omit if using salted butter)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. white vinegar
 10 tbsp. cold water

Directions:

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Cut in butter until like peas. Sprinkle vinegar over the mixture.

Sprinkle 1 tbsp. of water over part of mixture, toss with a fork, and move moistened dough to the side of the bowl. Repeat with the rest of the mixture, until

it's all moistened.

Gather dough into two balls, and flatten by pressing the side of your hand into each ball (on a floured surface) three times horizontally and three times vertically.

Roll each ball of dough into a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick pie crust.

Pie Filling Ingredients:

5 Medium Apples (washed, peeled, cored and sliced)
 1 Cup of Washed and

Halved Red Seedless Grapes (or another seedless variety)

1 tsp. Cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Cardamom

Directions:

Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine the apples, grapes, cinnamon and cardamom

Spoon the mixture into the unbaked pie shell.

Cover and seal the pie with

the top crust, make some small cuts in the top center of the crust, and bake the pie for about 45 minutes.

It's true that there doesn't seem to be any shortage of problems in the world. But, at least, there's currently no shortage of apples or grapes. Happy (healthier) baking!

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Friends of the Grafton Public Library calendar

In celebration of the green building practices used during the library's renovation and expansion project and Earth Day, The Friends of the Grafton Public Library encourage everyone in town to participate in this year's Community Read. Stop by the Grafton Public Li-

brary (35 Grafton Common) to pick up a copy of the adult, young adult and / or children's Community Read titles.

The adult title is The Overstory by Richard Powers, the young adult title is Code Blue by Marissa Slaven, and the children's titles are The Curious

Garden by Peter Brown; The Trouble with Dragons by Deb Gliori and The Tree Lady by Joseph H. Hopkins, illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Please register for programs online at: graftonlibrary.org/events, visit the Community Read website at www.graftonlibrary.org/com-

munityread or call the Library at 508-839-4649. If you have any questions about how to read or listen to the digital titles, how to get a physical copy of the book or how participate in the events, contact the Grafton Public Library at: info@graftonlibrary.org

Programs for Adults:

Community Read Book Discussion: The Overstory by Richard Powers - Thursday, April 28, 7:00-9:00pm. The Friends of the Library Community Read discussion of the book The Overstory by Richard Powers, will be held at the library. The book is available at the library in regular print hardcover and oversized paperback, digital media player and as an audio on CD, so stop by the library to pick up a physical copy. It is also available as an eBook and eAudio through Overdrive / Libby. "A novel of activism and natural-world power presents interlocking fables about nine remarkable strangers who are summoned in different ways by trees for an ultimate, brutal stand to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest." This program is for adults.

There will be several opportunities to discuss the book on the following dates:

"Reads Well with Others" Book Group - Monday, April 25 at 7:30pm

Community Read Book Discussion: The Overstory by Richard Powers - Thursday, April 28 7:00-9:00pm

Other Community Read Events:

Grafton Clean-Up Day Sponsored by the Grafton Garden Club, Saturday, April 23 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Meet on the Grafton Common. For more information, contact Helen Blazis, Grafton Garden Club Chair, at markblazissafaris@gmail.com.

Inspirational Book Group - Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30pm. The Inspirational book group will discuss Saving Us : a climate scientist's case for hope and healing in a divided world by Katharine Hayhoe. "Called 'one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change' by The New York Times, Katharine Hayhoe knows how to navigate all sides of the conversation on our changing planet. A Canadian climate scientist living in Texas, she negotiates distrust of data, indifference to imminent threats, and resistance to proposed solutions with ease. Over the past fifteen years Hayhoe has found that the most important thing we can do to address climate change is talk about it—and she wants to teach you how." Copies will be available in regular print and audio on

Continued on next page



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Help Community Harvest Project celebrate its 20th season

Community Harvest Project (CHP) announces the opening of its 20th season of volunteer farming for hunger relief at its Grafton farm. The public is invited to the farm on April 23 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for an Open House to learn about volunteer opportunities. All volunteer opportunities - drop in volunteers, greenhouse support, pruning crews, Tuesday crews, and more - are a great fit for retirees, students, and anyone who likes to get their hands dirty.

CHP hosts thousands of volunteers each year who plant, tend, and harvest the fresh produce they grow to feed those experiencing hunger in our community. CHP is actively recruiting volunteers for roles such as Team Leaders - a special group of volunteers who guide diverse groups in daily farm activities - and more, at the April Open House.

Team Leading involves working with groups of all ages and abilities engaging them in farming activities. This includes creating opportunities for learning, and generating conversa-

tions with visitors about our mission and work.

CHP volunteer Scott Rogers said "I can think of no other place where you can spend just a few hours and come away with an understanding of the impact you have made. The tangible accomplishments of seedlings planted or produce harvested translates into satisfying meals for those that need them. There is a direct connection between "getting your hands dirty" and combating hunger."

Community Harvest Project provides all volunteers with training and Team Leaders get additional training in leadership, communications, and effective strategies to lead diverse populations. CHP guarantees all of our volunteers a meaningful way to spend their mornings, and fulfilling work which has a direct impact on mitigating the effects of food insecurity in Massachusetts. Volunteer shifts run Monday through Saturday 9am to noon, May through October. Work with a great group of people and help those in our community experiencing hunger.

Community Harvest Project (CHP), a 501(c)3 organization and Points of Light Certified Service Enterprise, is dedicated to engaging and educating volunteers to grow fruits and vegetables for hunger relief. Through their volunteer farming, education, and leadership programs they bring thousands of community members together annually. In 2021 they hosted 4,428 volunteers resulting in 289,662 pounds of fruits and vegetables grown and donated through partnerships including the Worcester County Food Bank's hunger relief network, Community Servings, and Hector Reyes House. Community Harvest Project provided over 1,331,500 servings of fresh produce for individuals and families in need in Massachusetts who otherwise may not have had access. For more information about locations, programs, and impact, visit www.community-harvest.org. Contact Wayne McAuliffe Phone: 774-551-6544 wayne@community-harvest.org.

LIBRARY continued from previous page

CD, so stop by the library to pick up a physical copy. It is also available as an eBook on Overdrive / Libby. This program is for adults.

Blackstone River Watershed Association Annual Meeting - Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30pm.

Programs for Children:

Bookworms Book Club Kindergarten - 1st Grade - Thursday, April 28 5:30-6:00pm. Join Ms. Kristin for a fun book discussion for kids in kindergarten and first grade. Copies of the book, *The Curious Garden*, by Peter Brown, will be available for pick up at the library. It is also available as an audiobook on CD, a film, an eBook on Overdrive / Libby and an eFilm and eAudio on Hoopla. "Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city." Registration is required.

Bookworms Book Club 2nd-3rd Grade - Monday, April 28 6:15-6:45pm. Join Ms. Kristin for a fun book discussion for kids in second and third grade. Copies of the book, *The Trouble with Dragons*, by Debi Gliori, will be available for pick up at the library. "When dragons cut down too many trees, blow out too much hot air, and do other environmental damage, the future looks grim, but other animals advise them on

how to mend their ways and save the planet." Registration is required.

Bookworms Book Club 4th - 5th Grade - Thursday, April 28 7:00-7:30pm. Join Ms. Kristin for a fun book discussion for kids in fourth and fifth grade. Copies of the book, *The Tree Lady: the true story of how one tree-loving woman changed a city forever* by Joseph H. Hopkins and illustrated by Jill McElmurry, will be available for pick up at the library.

It is also available as an eBook on Overdrive / Libby. "Learn about Katherine Olivia Sessions who brought trees to San Diego and created what eventually became Balboa Park." Registration is required.

For more information about any of the Grafton Friends of the Library Community Read, please contact the library at info@griftonlibrary.org or call the library at 508-839-4649.

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UniBank will be sponsoring a free UniPay Online Payment Solution Webinar for businesses and nonprofit organizations that are interested in offering an online payment alternative as a solution for customers and donors.

It's a simple fact, according to UniBank: customers today expect the convenience of making payments online. During the Covid-19 pandemic, more and more customers have been seek-

ing online payment options to minimize in-person contact and to help with social distancing.

UniPay by UniBank is simple, efficient, secure and reliable and can help your business or nonprofit increase efficiencies. The solution is customizable and offers your business or nonprofit the ability to accept payments 24/7.

Join Kristy Genga, AVP from UniPay by UniBank, for

a forty five-minute webinar on Wednesday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m. to learn how this solution can help your business or nonprofit and enhance your revenue collections.

UniBank will waive the \$250 setup fee for the first twenty-five people to register and attend the webinar.

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Memorial Day Parade returns this year

Absent from community life for the past three years, the town of Northbridge's Memorial Day Parade will return in 2022, thanks to the Blackstone Valley Veterans Association.

The event will be held on May 30th starting at 9:30 a.m.

"It is time to honor our fallen heroes again," the BVVA says.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating are encouraged to contact Dan Lessard at derbydan476@gmail or 508-476-2836.

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Narragansett Bay trip and more for Millbury seniors

The Millbury Senior Center announces the following activities.

Narragansett Bay Lighthouse & Cruise Trip

Tuesday, June 28th, depart from the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m., return at 5:30 p.m. Trip includes a delicious full-course meal served at the Quonset Point Officer's Club (choice of baked scrod or baked chicken with lemon). After lunch you will board the Millennium Ferry for a narrated Narragansett Bay Lighthouse tour including ten beautiful lighthouses along with a historic Newport Harbor Tour. Trip including meal and cruise is \$110.00 (price also includes gratuity for the driver). Minimum of fifteen people. For more information or to RSVP call 508-865-0154.

Herbert Berg Florist of Worcester Arrangement Class

Once every month. Take home a floral arrangement that you create! Class dates and price varies on type of floral project. For more information or to sign up call 508-865-9154.

Memory Café

Join us on Tuesday, April 26th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Enjoy live acoustic music along with refreshments. A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss/challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends and have a good time. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this program! Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions; call to RSVP at 508-865-9154.

Computer/Cell Phone Classes

Every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you need help

or have questions on how to use your devices, call the Center to RSVP, 508-865-9154.

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 Center or call 508-865-9154.

Meet with a representative from Sen. Moore's office

Wednesday, May 11th, one Wednesday every month from 11:00 a.m. to noon. All are welcome to meet and discuss issues of importance or who are looking for assistance. Call 508-865-9154.

Senior Work-off Program

Receive up to \$1500 per year that can be used to pay real estate property tax in return for voluntary service at a town department. Call 508-865-9154.

Covid-19 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. Call 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. (\$3)

Yoga, Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m. (\$3).

Senior Center Activities

WII Bowling, Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Mahjong, Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

Blood Pressure Clinic, every Tuesday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Cribbage, Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Social Bingo, Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Bring your pennies!

Coloring, Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Dull Men's Club, Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. No reservations required for any of our activities or exercise classes.

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

Millbury Friendly Visitor Program

The Millbury Senior Center's Friendly Visitor Program is a service that we provide to the seniors in our community. This program offers companionship and support to our elderly here in town. Volunteers can assist people at their homes, make a weekly friendly phone call or provide transportation for those who would like to visit and meet at the Senior Center. Call 508-865-9154.

Millbury Senior Center Transportation

Transportation is provided for Millbury senior residents Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 1st. Call 508-865-9154.

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Grafton's Business Scene – April 2022

by Christine Galeone

For families and individuals, it's important to have things to anticipate each year. It can be as simple as the first day that it's warm enough to have that morning coffee on the deck. Or it can be as elaborate as a summer family vacation.

For communities, it's also important. Thankfully, in recent weeks, some popular Grafton businesses have re-opened their doors and order windows. And in the coming days and weeks, some much-anticipated annual events will be held.

One North Grafton farm that – like last year – re-opened earlier than in previous years is Houlden Farm. The multi-generational family-owned business sells a variety of its produce along with dairy items, baked goods and more. While its farm stand re-opened April 7, its Sunflower Shanty beer garden will re-open with live music on Saturday May 7. The farm also has a family-friendly animal enclosure, where families can visit with goats. And the venue can now be rented for special events.

To the delight of many local gardeners, Perreault Nursery & Landscape Supply, which is located in North Grafton as well, also re-opened recently. Among other things, it sells a wide array of flowers, bushes, trees, mulch,



yard and garden supplies, fairy garden supplies and gifts. Additionally, its landscape design and installation services are available for purchase.

In North Grafton, another seasonal business re-opened its order windows during the beginning of April. The return of those familiar long lines at Swirls & Scoops, an ice cream and frozen yogurt shop, is something that many local kids and adults look forward to every year.

Another Grafton business that just returned is the Grafton Flea Market. Recently sold by the original owner, Harry Peters, who started the indoor and outdoor flea market in 1970, to Tam Nguyen and Dung Kim Do of Worcester for \$1.65 million total, the flea market will continue to feature hundreds of

vendors – including Peters – and a casual restaurant. It will remain open every Sunday, through December, from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. It will also be open on Memorial Day, Monday May 30.

The Grafton Garden Club has a few annual events for residents to look forward to. On Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. until noon, the nonprofit will hold its annual Grafton clean-up day. Volunteers are invited to join club members on the Grafton Common for coffee and donut holes before picking up special trash collection bags to help them tidy up the town. On Saturday May 7, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the same location, the club will hold its annual plant sale, bake sale and raffles. Additionally, the club is now accepting applications to utilize a free 20-foot by

20-foot garden plot for 2022 in the Lee Knowlton Community Garden. More information can be found on the club's website, graftongardenclub.org.

Another annual plant sale will return as a hybrid event this year. On Friday May 6 through Friday May 13, Community Harvest Project will hold its annual Plantapalooza online fundraiser. Plants can be ordered online and picked up on Friday May 13. The North Grafton nonprofit farm that supports hunger relief in Massachusetts will also hold the fundraiser plant sale in person on Saturday May 14 at its farm. The online store can be found by going to <https://community-harvest.org/events/>.

One fun annual event for seniors throughout Worcester County is the county's Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic Free Drive-Thru Spectacular. It will be held Saturday June 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SAC Park in Shrewsbury. It will include a free barbeque meal, popcorn, ice cream sundaes, raffles and music. It's open to the first 900 senior citizens who register by Wednesday May 11 by calling 508-796-2638 or emailing dostiguy@worcestercountysheriff.org.

Welcoming back these events and businesses has brought happiness to many area residents. It has also strengthened the com-

munity in more ways than one.

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.



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Rep. Muradian backs \$350 million bond bill

State Rep. David Muradian (R-Grafton) recently lent his support to a \$350 million bond bill to help maintain municipal roads and bridges under the state's Chapter 90 program. The bill provides additional funding for several transportation-related municipal grant programs.

House Bill 4638, An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges, will provide nearly \$1.3 mil-

lion to the 9th Worcester District to assist with the upkeep of its local transportation infrastructure under the state's Chapter 90 program, which is being funded at \$200 million for FY 2023. The bill was engrossed on a unanimous vote of 156-0 in the House of Representatives on March 30, but still requires Senate approval and Gov. Baker's signature.

Specifically, the 9th

Worcester District will receive the following:

- Grafton, \$500,498
- Northbridge, \$465,194
- Upton, \$314,650

Established in 1973, the Chapter 90 program allocates funding annually to all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns, using a formula that takes into account the weighted average of a community's local road mileage (58.33%),

population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%). The program provides funding on a reimbursable basis, with cities and towns paying upfront for eligible expenses before receiving state compensation.

Rep. Muradian said the House bill also authorizes \$150 million in additional spending for five state grant programs that cities and towns can access for assistance in funding local transportation-related initiatives, as follows:

- A \$40 million increase for the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repair and improvement of pavement and surface conditions on non-federally-aided roadways;
- A \$30 million increase in the municipal small bridge program, which supports the design, engineering, construction, preservation, reconstruction and repair of, or improvements to, non-federally-aided bridges;
- A \$25 million increase for the Complete Streets

Program, which provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities seeking to provide safe and accessible travel mode options for people of all ages and abilities;

- A \$25 million increase for grants to municipalities for the prioritization and enhancement of mass transit by bus; and
- A \$25 million increase for grants to municipalities to expand access to mass transit and commuter rail stations.

During floor debate, Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield) offered an amendment seeking to increase the Chapter 90 appropriation to \$225 million. Rep. Muradian supported this effort to provide additional road and bridge funding to cities and towns, but the amendment was defeated on a vote of 128-28.

Rep. Muradian noted that the Chapter 90 program is designed to help cities and towns address local transportation priorities by allowing

funding to be used for a variety of construction purposes, including road resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, direction and warning signs, traffic signals, crosswalks, and street lighting.

Other eligible construction projects include structural work on bridges, culverts, footbridges and pedestrian bridges, and retaining walls.

Communities can also use Chapter 90 funding for the purchase or long-term lease of certain road-building equipment specifically related to a Chapter 90 project, such as backhoes, catch basin cleaners, concrete mixers, excavators and pavers. Certain consultant services are also eligible for Chapter 90 reimbursement, including civil engineering, land surveying services and environmental permitting support, as well as miscellaneous expenses such as salt storage sheds and garages for housing road-building equipment.



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MPF spring clean-up

SUTTON/DOUGLAS - The Manchaug Pond Foundation will be holding their Spring Clean Up of scenic Manchaug Pond on Saturday, April 23. Volunteers are invited to join members and Friends of the Manchaug Pond Foundation in cleaning up Manchaug Pond and its watershed. Volunteers with boats are also welcome to help clean up coves. Volunteer time will support the MPF's third s319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant requirements which was awarded in the fall of 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The effort is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 23, from

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, with volunteers meeting at the state public access boat ramp on Torrey Road in Sutton. Everyone will hit the pavement with garbage bags in hand to clean the roadsides, shoreline, and boat ramp - all areas within the Manchaug Pond watershed and volunteers are not required to stay for the duration of the clean up. Good company, beautiful scenery, safety vests, rubber gloves, and garbage bags will be provided.

Rain date will be Sunday, April 24, and the rain date notice will be posted on the Manchaug Pond Foundation's Facebook page and website.

-The Manchaug Pond Founda-

tion's educational events look to improve the water quality of the picturesque 380 acre community lake, which lies within Douglas and Sutton, through the education of the many users and watershed residents. Educational information on residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as landscaping with buffer zones and rain gardens to limit runoff of fertilizer nutrients are available on the Foundation's website. Educational materials have been made possible by the MPF's previous two water quality grants awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. For more information visit manchaugpond.org.



Millbury senior center calendar

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

Narragansett Bay Lighthouse and cruise trip - Tuesday, June 28, depart from the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Return at 5:30 p.m. Trip includes a delicious full course meal at the Quonset Point Officer's Club. Choice of fresh baked scrod or baked chicken with lemon. After lunch you will board the Millennium Ferry for a narrated Narragansett Bay, lighthouse tour including ten beautiful lighthouses along with a historic Newport Harbor Tour. Trip including meal and cruise is \$111.00 (price also includes gratuity for the driver)

For more information or to RSVP call the center at 508-865-9154.

Herbert Berg Florist arrangement class once every month. Take home a floral arrangement that you create. Class dates and price varies on type of floral project includes all materials and instruction. Minimum of 15 people. For more information or to sign up for the next class call the center at 508-865-9154

Memory Cafe - Please join us on Tuesday, April 26, 2-3:30 p.m. Enjoy live acoustic music along with refreshments. A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss/challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this program. Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154.

Computer/cell phone classes - every Thursday at 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. If you need help or have questions on how to use your devices. Call the center to RSVP 508-865-9154.

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.

Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office Wednesday, May 11 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.

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 19 booster vaccine - 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 - 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.

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

Mahjong - 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.

Coloring - Thursdays at 10 a.m.

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.



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Registration, coffee, raffle and silent auction bidding open - 10AM

Tee time - 11AM

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres - 4PM

Auction/Raffle closes - 4:55PM

Buffet dinner - 5PM

Event concludes/Auction check out - 6PM

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Slater Experience Guides are volunteer hosts of the Samuel Slater Experience (SSE) who support and enhance visitors' experiences throughout their tour of the museum.

As knowledgeable emissaries, they greet visitors, assist with self-guided tours, supply transitional and anecdotal information for each exhibit, explain the digital technology and techniques used, and answer specific questions about the Samuel Slater story, the founding of Webster, and the history of the Samuel Slater Experience.

Requirements
Slater Experience Guides are

expected to share an interest and enthusiasm for the history of the American Industrial Revolution and the town of Webster. They should have good people skills and the ability to actively interact with children, school groups, and adults in public speaking settings.

Volunteer Experience Guides are asked to make a one-year commitment and be available for at least two 3-hour shifts per month during SSE's hours of operation, including at least two weekend days each quarter.

SSE will provide periodic training sessions covering all aspects of the museum, the tech-

nology, and the building. Slater Experience Guides must be able to attend Slater Experience Guide Orientation and Training and are expected to review additional material as periodically provided or approved by SSE in order to stay up to date on any changes, additions or deletions, and to broaden their knowledge of our mission.

Benefits
Experience guides will receive a family pass for free entry to the museum during their tenure as volunteers. They will receive a 20% discount in the gift shop, a 20% discount on event rentals, and invitations to

special events.

For an application form, contact Reanna Kuzdzal at 528-

461-2955 or email rkuzdzal@samuel Slater Experience. Applicants will be asked to come in

for an in-person interview.

Senior Center offers yoga, Zumba classes

The Uxbridge Senior Center announces a live eight-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, May 5 from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at the Senior Center's satellite site which is the McCloskey School at 62 Capron St. 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.

The class will run one hour, one day a week for eight weeks. The suggested donation cost for the class is \$25. The class is open to all in the community including non-Uxbridge residents. Checks should be made payable to the Uxbridge Senior Center. Participants should bring their

own yoga mats and blocks, if possible.

The Senior Center is also offering a live eight-week session of Zumba classes for seniors.

Zumba is a fitness program that fuses entertainment and culture into an exhilarating dance party workout.

The program starts Thursday, May 5 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center satellite site at the McCloskey School at 62 Capron St.

The benefits of Zumba include improved balance, range of motion and coordination. Additional benefits include increased blood flow to the brain enhancing attention and concentration skills, as well as burning calories and meeting new friends. The class is open to all, include non-Uxbridge residents.

Call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 5-8-278-8622 for more information and to receive an application and waiver forms prior to the start of the program.

The Senior Center is located at 36 So. Main St. and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Living with Luke

Luke Valentino Comes Home

By Amy LeClaire

Luke Valentino entered my life on Friday, March 25 in the most peculiar way. I'd love to tell a story about how my puppy paraded through a pudgy pile of siblings to greet me, as though destined. "I've finally found you!"

Our story is less cliché.

He was nestled beside his brother, burying his face in a blanket before realizing what was happening. A person had come to meet the crew at a set and confirmed location to mark a second travel day (he had just been to the vet a day prior). One more person and one more activity gave Luke, at seven weeks old, one more reason to bury himself in the warmth of a brother. "I'm wiped."

His eyes met mine, and registered my face for a split second.

"That's him. That's Luke," I said. I recognized him immediately from the picture sent a few days prior. He was a bit darker than the others, and a good size. The camera captured his essence in a perfect shot, one that melted my heart. Something about his expression held a calm and healing essence to correlate with his name: Luke Valentino. I knew him before I met him. He was the one.

"I gotta' get to the bottom of this." As though searching for a treasure, he dug away at soft blankets which lined a clothes basket repurposed to be a travel-bed for the ride home. Every now and then he looked up at me and broke into his heartbreakingly miniature puppy smile. "I don't really know you yet, but I feel you." Then he peed on one of my old shirts.

We arrived home and introduced our puppy to our yard, one we would later realize was overly full of mulch shards and acorns. He looked around and sniffed the air with hesitation. His short legs wobbled like a newborn lamb's as he experienced a whole new landscape, a view that seemed wide and mysterious next to the only one he knew with his mother and litter mates. "This is your new home, Luke." I picked him up and squeezed him close, already

smitten by an indescribable love and prayer for a pup whose story was about to be written. "Luke Valentino – my love for you is endless."

We brought him inside. He looked around, still unsure, and found his bed, a cozy wooden crate which was lined with a thick, orthopedic dog mattress, soft blankets, and stuffed



A week passed and our pup's progress had us breathless. Puppies are so impressionable. Given enormous attention, they learn how to survive with you comfortably and quickly. We gushed and bragged and videotaped every milestone. Our bashful puppy had grown into a confident member of our family. He knew he was loved. Lonely

nights that had him whimpering and confused became serene cuddle moments with Daddy, who shared his sweatshirt to sleep upon throughout lonely nights. He began to explore rooms and hallways that once seemed scary. He found Lincoln's favorite spot beneath the island counter and sniffed with obsession. If I dared to walk across the driveway, creating a distance between us, he'd sit and stare up at me. "Don't leave me! I like you!" He'd race towards me, his little legs surprisingly strong and assured, and we'd cuddle while he nibbled my sweatshirt tassel.

I'll never forget the first time he noted the hovering echo of a helicopter. The sound seemed great enough to swallow the sky. Maybe the sound could take Luke with him? He ran like a puppy actor auditioning for The Lion King during an adventure scene. He ran mightily and with record speed, straight towards the deck steps where, for the first time, he managed one step at a time, so as not to fall through the spaces between. I scooped him back into the house. "You're okay, Luke." Then he chewed on Daddy's boot and forgot all about it. Luke was a survivor. In one week, he had learned that home is where the heart (and fun) is.

The bed he had tentatively crawled into became a cave for hauling stuffed animals up-and-into. He learned to master the art of the "running start" in order to manage the big teddies. Occasionally he'd misjudge the physics and bounce off of the stuffed animal's belly onto the floor. "I meant to do that." A tenacious pup, he'd try and try again. He soared over the step-down into our family room, and learned how to "sit" on command, given a kibble reward. He even exposed a rebellious side, dashing away from us in the yard, acorn in mouth, and

changing direction like a tennis player when we got close enough to snatch back the choking hazard. We were exhausted but so enamored by our March puppy, son of Mister Big and Molly of Cloverdale Goldens. We couldn't wait to build more adventures with a puppy named Luke Valentino. We couldn't wait to experience all that dogs do for us.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke. Write to me. amy-leclaire@hotmail.com



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Tales from beyond

What Are Witch Windows

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

New England has a lot of exclusive and strange customs and superstitions that have been a perennial staple of our culture since the first settlers landed here. Although many have

faded with time into obscurity, some not only still thrive but can also be seen as one travels the highways and byways of the region. One of these customs can be seen mainly in Vermont and is known as the "Witch Window." The origins of this name are lost to obscurity, but the

strange slanted window easily distinguishes their existence between the eave of the home and addition just below, running parallel with the roof angle.

Witch windows originated in the Green Mountain State sometime around the 19th century. The name actually refers

to a superstition that witches cannot maneuver their broomsticks sideways, so by placing the window at a 45-degree angle, a witch cannot enter your home through that window. This seems relatively weak in theory as all the other windows in the home are installed at the

usual angles. If a witch really wanted to enter the home, it could easily pick another opening more suitable for entry.

Another term for these examples of peculiar architecture is "coffin windows," which is even more unusual than the former. This name came from the thought that rather than lugging a heavy-laden coffin down the winding staircase of the home, the angled window would allow the coffin to be slid right side up out the window onto the roof of the addition and carefully lowered to the ground. This seems rather irrational in thought and practicality, especially for Vermonters who are known for their common sense and ingenuity. If someone were to die upstairs, would it not be easier to bring the deceased downstairs to the coffin rather than carry the coffin upstairs to the dead?

Many years ago, I saw my first witch window while traveling along Route 25 in Vermont. It struck me as odd at first, but its purpose immediately seemed as plain and evident as could be. The first story addition may have covered the old window. Thus, being practical and not having access to the big box stores we have today, the owner reinstalled the window

to easily fit in the angled space between the addition and eave, instead of building a dormer for an upright window. Why do you ask? Easy answer; to let light into the upstairs room that would otherwise be dark after the addition was put in place.

The expansion of the home led to having the second-floor window covered by the new roof. Vermont farmers would not have wasted anything if they could help it. Materials were hard to come by, and that window was going to be used. The only place it would fit was where you see them today.

So, we have superstition, custom, and practicality. Is it all three, or just one reason these amusing additions exist, mainly on Vermont homes? If you happen upon a house with a witch window and the owner is outside, stop and ask him about the witch window. Don't be surprised if he looks at you with a severe yet sincere expression on his face as he asks, "witch window?" Seeing one while driving the roads of Vermont is almost as exciting as seeing a moose or bear, but a heck of a lot safer.

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Q. I am wondering if you might know the fix to hood vibration by the windshield. I hear it, feel it and see it when I drive on the highway at 75 miles per hour. I'm adjusting the hood bumpers to see if that fixes the problem but so far, if that's the fix, it isn't working. Any suggestions?

A. I would start by making sure you have cured any vibrations in the car first. The visual shake in the hood could be a result of an out of balance tire, damaged wheel or even driveline related. My first step would be to check and rebalance the four tires.

Q. I have a 2006 Hyundai Azera and it has been sitting outside in the driveway for almost a year. I had to boost the battery once but didn't drive it. Now I can't drive it because the battery is dead again. Do I need a new battery?

A. Realistically after the jump start the battery should have been charged on a battery charger. Depending on the battery condition and the battery charger, this could take 6 to 24 hours. More than likely after all this time the battery needs replacement. In addition, the gasoline could have become stale and may cause some drivability issues with the car. Even the brakes could have become rusted after sitting unused for a year. At this point the best thing to do would be to have the car towed to a repair shop so the entire car can be evaluated to insure it is safe.

Q. I have a 2018 Buick Encore and a so called "Bumper to Bumper Warranty". I purchased the vehicle used on Dec 10, 2021, from a car dealer with a 90-day Bumper to Bumper Warranty. On or about the 70th day of ownership, and less than 550 miles since purchased, I noticed that the passenger side front bumper was disengaging from the vehicle where the bumper and headlight area merge. I pushed it in, but it soon popped out again. I called the dealer about the problem, and they set me up with an appointment, Feb 24, 2022, with their service department. They viewed the area where the bumper popped and advised they would get back to me about a solution. 15 days later they called and advised that the estimate to fix would cost over \$535.00 and could be more, all of which would be my responsibility to pay. Oddly, the Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty does not cover bumpers. I searched the internet to see if Buick had any service bulletins on this problem but could not find any as the body shop manager at the dealership indicated it was not a rare problem. Do I have any recourse?

A. The used car Bumper to Bumper warranty typically covers mechanical issues and not body repairs. Buick did issue a technical service bulletin that describes this problem and a repair solution. There was a technical service bulletin issued, but not a recall or warranty extension, so at this point you would be responsible for the repair. That being said, if you purchased the car from a Buick dealer and there shows no previous body repairs, it is worth suggesting that Buick, the dealer and you split the cost of the repair.

Q. From day one the "auto on high beam" feature on my 2019 Acura MDX has worked maybe once that I recall. Whenever I bring the car in for service, I mention it to the dealer, and they tell me "nothing is wrong and we've adjusted the sensitivity." I have a friend who owns the same car and tells me he has no issues and has had rentals with this feature, and it works w/o issue. I've looked for chat rooms/service bulletins but haven't found any on this problem. Any suggestions? Also, I'm having issues with "auto engine idle." Last time in for service they "rebooted" the module which has helped but this still is very intermittent. Other than this the Acura is a good vehicle.

A. The system may be operating normally. The auto high beam issue has certain criteria for it to work properly. Some of these include white and red-light sources are not detected ahead, two or more streetlights have not been detected, vehicle speed is above 35 mph. In addition, weather, road conditions and windshield wiper settings may affect system operation. The Idle stop feature also has certain criteria for proper operation. Some of these include electrical load on the engine (climate control, seat heaters, towing a trailer as some examples). The system also relies on a fully charged battery. If much of your driving is short distances, the battery may not be fully charged, and the system keeps the engine running to help with electrical demand.

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Chief's corner

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

The week of April 11th-15th was National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW). Mass DOT has continued to participate in the nationwide work zone safety campaign and has asked our department to share the campaign information. This year's theme was "Work Zones Are a Sign to Slow Down" and was intended to highlight the importance for motorists to slow their vehicles and stay alert when approaching and passing a work zone. They note from 2018-2021, there were 181 work zone-related crashes that resulted in a fatality or serious injury in MA. Mass DOT reminds everyone to pay attention, exercise caution, and please take a moment to reflect on the individuals who build, patrol, & maintain the roads we travel on daily.

Several years ago, fines were authorized to be doubled in construction areas and, back in 2016, the "Move Over" law was enacted here in the Commonwealth. Under normal conditions, if a driver is cited for speeding, and they are travelling 50mph in a 30pmh zone, they would be subject to a \$150 base fine (plus additional surcharges). This is based on \$50 for the first ten miles over the limit, and \$10 per mile for those after. In Work Zones or "construction areas", the same speed can result in a

fine of \$300 (plus surcharges). A "construction area" appears to be defined by Mass Law in 720CMR9.06. It offers guidelines in application to highways where "traffic signs are erected, or warning lights are displayed... to notify of the presence of men or equipment." This is general and broad, so numerous areas of work can apply. These can be places where accidents or injuries can take place, so the laws provide stiff penalties for speeding in these areas. The presence of heavy equipment and workers contributes to the hazards in the locations. It is important to control your speed and watch for things such as vehicles entering and exiting.

The "Move Over for Emergency Vehicles" law is contained in MGL Chapter 89 Section 7C. It applies to several vehicles, including Emergency Response Vehicles, such as police cars, fire apparatus, ambulances, or disaster vehicles. Others covered under this section include highway maintenance vehicles, such as dump trucks, heavy equipment, etc. The law states: "Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle with flashing lights an operator shall: proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions. On a highway, drivers must make

a lane change if practicable. If changing lanes is impracticable, drivers must proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions." A penalty for a violation is a \$100 civil fine. Whether or not it is a construction zone, it is important to remember vehicles share the road with pedestrians, bicyclists, and workers. By combining cautious driving with the proper use of the roads by the public, we can reduce the chances of accidents and injuries.

For those still seeking COVID-19 vaccination or other information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We encourage everyone to continue to be safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. These times continue to be challenging and we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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.



Tuned for Prime Time.

Singer and Songwriter Matt York fiddles with his guitar before performing music by The Highwaymen (Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson) at the Grafton Public Library the evening of April 8th. He was introduced by GPL Director Beth Gallaway, who told the audience "this is the first time we've used the Community Room" since the facility was upgraded and expanded. Mr. York's appearance was made possible by a grant from the Grafton Cultural Council.

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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**

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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

By Mark Marzeotti

Today's low inventory can be challenging for homebuyers, especially if you're looking to purchase your first home. But if you're one of many people who work remotely, you may have a great opportunity to use the flexibility you have at work to achieve your home buying goals this year.

It's apparent that the ongoing trend of remote work can open up more options for homebuyers. This will enable

Remote work trends mean flexibility for first-time homebuyers

those who are able to work from home on a part-time or hybrid basis to move slightly farther away from job centers. For workers who secure full-time remote jobs, their place of residence will be determined by affordability and personal preferences. Basically, working from home is great news if you're a first-time buyer trying to find a home that meets your needs and budget. So how can it benefit me?

Extra flexibility in your career means extra flexibility in your home search. If your job is 100% remote, you don't have to be tied to a specific location or office. So, if you've been having a hard time finding what you want in your local area, it may be time to expand your search.

One option you could consider is moving to a place where you've always wanted to

live, like the mountains, beach, or closer to loved ones. When you broaden your search radius to include those locations, it'll give you additional homes to consider.

It could also allow you to search for a more affordable location where you have more options in your price range. This can help you achieve two goals: saving money; and finding additional features that meet your needs. Some of the benefits include:

For potential first-time homebuyers, leveraging their house-buying power in more affordable markets can also help them buy more attractive homes—more square footage and rooms, more options for different home styles and neighborhood amenities—increasing the opportunity to find a home that suits their preferences.

That means you can use your work flexibility to search for homes with the amenities you need at a lower price point.

Bottom line is, remote work

doesn't just give you expanded flexibility for your career. If you're no longer tied to a location because of your office, you have a great opportunity

to expand your housing search. Connect with The Marzeotti Group or a local REALTOR to explore how this can open up your options.



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