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French government honors Northbridge native Kathleen Turner

By Rod Lee

Kathleen M. Turner enjoys telling people that she did not become a teacher. She was born a teacher.

A graduate of Northbridge High School, Class of 1990, Ms. Turner reiterated this message again on April 11th upon receiving the Order of Academic Palms in a ceremony in the library of Sharon High School.

Ms. Turner has taught at Sharon High for more than twenty-five years.

Bestowing the title of chevalier, or knight, on her, were Monsieur Olivier Favry, cultural attaché of the French Consulate in Boston, and Education Officer Noah Ouelette.

The Order of the Palms is a national order of the French republic whose members salute academics who have rendered exemplary service to French

education and who have contributed actively to the prestige of French culture.

Among those in attendance that afternoon were Ms. Turner's parents Don and Jean Turner of Northbridge, their hearts filled with pride. When someone said to Jean Turner "it's nice you could come," she thought "where else would I be?"

Honors are nothing new for Ms. Turner. She was selected as Massachusetts Teacher of the Year in 2013, for instance—the 51st such recipient of the distinction. In choosing her for that award, the committee charged with the task noted that she is beloved by her students for engaging them in "a meaningful investigation of French culture that deepens their understanding of that culture."

She was instrumental in building

Sharon High's French program. She regularly takes students to Paris during spring break, plans annual trips to Quebec City, and established an exchange program with a school in Rouen, France.

"Kathleen Turner is an exceptional teacher," Sharon Public Schools' superintendent at the time, Timothy Farmer, said. "She is highly skilled and consistently works in the best interests of her students."

In also extolling her in his letter of recommendation, Sharon High's principal, Jose Libano said "Kathy's success can be attributed to many personal qualities, including a willingness to reflect on her practices, to seek out and welcome feedback from colleagues and students, to demonstrate empathy and compassion, and to work tirelessly."

During a conversation over the

telephone after receiving her latest recognition, Ms. Turner said "I'm very happy in what I do. My heart is in the classroom. I did get an administrative degree about fifteen years ago." But she has no desire in that direction.

Asked how French is faring as a subject right now, she said "it's booming. A lot of places it's tanking but it's solid in middle school and high school."

At Sharon, "almost sixty seniors are taking French which is really impressive that they've gone the distance in that it's only required through the sophomore year. Many are taking it in college as a minor, or as a major. One of my students in her thirties moved to France, got her Master's and is now a French citizen.

"French is spoken on every con-

Continued on page 2



Sharon High School Teacher Kathleen Turner is all smiles at her induction into the Order of Academic Palms by the French republic for her "devotion and accomplishments in the area of education." Ms. Turner is originally from Northbridge.

Volunteers are lifeblood of Douglas's Jenckes Store Museum

By Rod Lee

The latest in a long line of curators for the Douglas Historical Society and the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum on Main St. in the center of town is Chelsea Bielecki, a reddish-haired young woman who relishes her role as

Ursula Levi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Douglas Historical Society, works a cash register during an open house at the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum on May 1st.

a conveyor of all sorts of facts and figures about the legendary building.

"This was essentially a one-stop shop for everyone in town," Ms. Bielecki said during a two-hour open house at the Jenckes Store on May 1st. "I joke around that it was the original Walmart or Amazon. That gets kids interested."

The open house was a prelude to the official start of the museum's summer season, which will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 28th, as a highlight of Memorial Day weekend activities. The museum

will be available to the public Saturdays after that.

Operated by the Douglas Historical Society, the E.N. Jenckes Store was built by "Mr. Balcom" in 1833 and purchased by first Gardner Chase in 1839 and then E.N. Jenckes in 1889. Mr. Jenckes expanded the premises. He died in 1924. His daughters, Mialmi and Helen Jenckes, were the last owners of the property before it closed in the early 1970s, according to Ms. Bielecki.

The Jenckes Store is a symbol of pride for the Douglas Historical Soci-

ety and the community. As the DHS points out in literature that is available to visitors, the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum is preserved and maintained "as an example of a typical general store and historical reflection of life in a rural community during the early 19th Century."

"We call this a living history museum, as a way to experience what it was like in Douglas in the early 1800s," Ms. Bielecki said.

The Douglas Historical Society is always looking for more people to bol-

Continued on page 4



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TURNER

Continued from page 1

minent. Fifty-five countries have French as their official language. Spanish is definitely spoken more domestically, but Quebec is only five hours away!”

Ms. Turner said being Massachusetts Teacher of the Year “opened a lot of doors for me,” one of which led to her being selected to receive the Order of Academic Palms.

Nothing Ms. Turner does surprises her parents, neither of whom speak French. She and her brother Eric, a Boston College grad, have both done well. Eric Turner works for KPMG, a prestigious accounting firm.

Addressing their daughter’s achievements during a conversation in their home on April 21, the Turners said she is totally immersed in the life of the chevalier, or knight, that she now is. She has friends in Germany who she has known since high school. She organizes adult trips for teachers in Northbridge. Her command of the French language has been

helpful more than once when her parents have accompanied her on trips to France. She typically spends summers in Europe, after school is out.

“In her class, from Day One, no English, only French,” Mr. Turner says.

In her speech on April 18th, Ms. Turner said the idea of being a teacher “has always been a fundamental part of my identity. From the first day of preschool, I have felt comfortable in classrooms. They were like a home away from home. I was the nerdy kid who cried on snow days and on the last day of school before summer vacation. I pretended that my stuffed animals were my students. I brought home extra worksheets to teach my friends math when we were six. I tutored my classmates before tests in high school, and I even taught a Latin class to middle school students when I was a senior. So I never really ‘decided’ to become a teacher. It was just in me.”

She credited her teachers in Northbridge, Monsieur (Phil) Cormier, Mademoiselle (Nan-



Kathleen Turner with her parents Don and Jean Turner. Her knowledge of the French language and culture has helped them immeasurably on trips to France that have made with her.

cy) Sweeney and Madame (Elaine) Macomber, for bringing her to Paris for the first time when she was a junior. “The

trip was magical, and, as with my experiences in classrooms, I felt strangely at home. I had barely unpacked my bags when

I started to beg my poor parents to let me go back to France the following year. They said yes. They are still saying that they

didn’t know how they could possibly say no! I majored in French in college (Harvard), I spent a semester studying and teaching English in Nantes, France, I got my degree in the spring of 1994, and I came to Sharon High school three months later.”

Ms. Turner says her passion for French culture has only blossomed through the years. “Culturally, the love at first sight that I felt when I arrived in Paris has turned into a lifetime love affair with cities, villages, gardens, history, architecture, literature, traditions, lifestyle, food—ah the food—and above all, the people. The ability to speak French has allowed me to create some of the strongest relationships in my life.”

Not surprisingly, the message on Ms. Turner’s answering machine at home is delivered in French.

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Xpressly Yours ...

Where some ancients gather at ten minutes to eight o'clock

What a curious sight the six or so of us must make, standing at the doorstep of the Dollar Tree in Whitinsville every morning just before the store opens.

People unfamiliar with the scene who are driving past on their way to Shaw's or Koopman's (or maybe McDonald's, for their morning coffee and a breakfast sandwich) must do a double take, or say to themselves "what are all those old guys up to? What are they waiting for?"

The newspaper, for one American greenback—a third of its regular price—that's what.

The composition of the group has not changed much over the

John is the "elder statesman" in his light vinyl jacket and Harvey Industries cap. He is ninety-one going on ninety-two. He touches a stanchion in the parking lot as he walks toward the store from his truck, presumably for good luck.

Frank's thick white hair is combed straight back. He became the talker of the group after Butch suffered a mishap, underwent rehabilitation, and decided not to come around anymore. Frank drops names of people he knows, wondering if we know them too. Or he will complain about such things as Uxbridge raising property taxes

"No, not dead," John replied.

Pablo is still masking up although the rest of stopped wearing them as soon as the sign that they were required for entrance to the store was removed. Pablo is typically in a cheerful mood and liable to break into a rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" or "Good Morning, Vietnam."

Dick wears brown cotton garden gloves even on a forty-degree spring day with the sun flooding the stoop and warming our creaking bones. His car brakes mysteriously started giving out on him a month or so ago. He would have to pull off the road for fear of hitting something. He subsequently traded up to a new vehicle.

Jack is an off-and-on presence. He worked for National Grid, I think, and so pays close attention to construction projects and road work and detours. He will say in amazement "have you noticed how many trees they're taking down around here?"

As for myself, I am unofficial co-captain of this strange band of brothers, with Buzzy, as two founding members of the group. When I am not engaged in the innocuous but often entertaining chit chat that develops between us I am probably thinking about the books from Richard Whittaker's private collection that I purchase on a regular basis from Deb Horan at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster. I am always trying to grow my own ever-expanding personal library, like Thomas Jefferson did.

I do not know much about Mr. Whittaker but at Ms. Horan's store I typically gravitate to the back room, where the biographies and classics and historical fiction are shelved. I know I will probably find a book previously owned by Richard Whittaker, whose taste matched mine. I latched onto two more of Mr. Whittaker's books recently. The first was Gerald Clarke's

account of the life of Truman Capote. A week or so later I discovered a hardcover copy of In Cold Blood—Mr. Capote's most famous work. Both books, as usual, contained Richard Whittaker's signature just inside the cover, in a flowing, graceful script.

I consider any book owned by Richard Whittaker to be worth the price. In Cold Blood cost me

more than I am used to paying but on the copyright page I saw what I look for as a pre-condition of purchase whenever possible: FIRST PRINTING. That the book and its dust jacket are in near-perfect condition clinched the deal.

I don't mention my visits to Booklovers' Gourmet to the others as we wait for the newspaper. There is more pressing subject

matter to discuss: the weather; the Red Sox; presidential politics; the war in Ukraine; and of course our aches and pains and medical appointments.

We don't contribute much of significance to the public discourse.

But, as Buzzy likes to say, "at least we have fun."

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years. Near as I can determine, all of us are in our seventies, or older.

Buzzy is usually the first to arrive, always pulling into the same parking spot, like a parishioner claiming the pew he is accustomed to occupying Sundays in church. All of us do the same.

Buzzy wears sunglasses to protect his eyes when there is a glare because he recently had cataract surgery. Possessed of an agreeable disposition, he is prone to saying, when the weatherman's forecast is off the mark, "how would you like to make six figures and be wrong half the time?"

on two-family houses "and we were supposed to get something out of it, but haven't."

Frank can be counted on to keep the dialogue going. On a recent Monday morning, noticing a man flying a kite-like contraption powered by a gasoline engine across the sky west to east, toward Mendon and Milford, he said "look at that! Remember, Romasco used to do that!" There were nods of affirmation from those who recalled just such a sight.

"Yeah, and once he ran into some high-tension wires and zap!" John said.

"Dead?"

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Terri and Mike

JENCKES

Continued from page 1

ster its all-volunteer ranks, Society President Laurie Church noted. Helpers are needed in a variety of capacities: as cobblers

and crafters, as docents, as curators, for upkeep of the buildings and grounds, to work in the gift shop, to assist with membership and public relations and to schedule programs and events.

Yard sales as fundraisers for the Society will resume in June,

Ms. Church said.

The Society takes its charge seriously, which is good news for local residents. Recently, with help from State Sen. Ryan Fattman, the Society obtained a \$40,000 grant “for updates,” Ms. Church said. “Sen. Fatt-

man has taken an interest” in the property, she said.

A great grandfather of Ms. Church’s, William Leander Church, though underage, served in the Civil War. His rifle, GAR sword, flute and stirrups are on display at the store museum.

Ms. Bielecki was eager to talk up the museum on a gorgeous spring day, as curious visitors came and went.

Articles manufactured in Douglas that are on display at the museum include dry goods, clothing made at the Hayward-Schuster Mill, baseball memorabilia from the Boston Red Sox’s game at Soldiers Field in the 1940s (and a reenactment in 1996), and axes manufactured by the Hunt brothers’ factory.

“Douglas axes were everywhere,” Ms. Bielecki said. “They were involved in the War of 1812.”

Douglas Axe Co. was the first business in Douglas and operated five different shops in town.

A baseball from the Red Sox’s appearance at Soldiers Field on exhibit in a glass case was signed by, among others, Johnny Pesky and Dominick DiMaggio.

“The E.N. Jenckes Store was the bread and butter of town for quite a while,” Ms. Bielecki said.

Visitors to the store museum



Following in the footsteps of other curators, including Wallace Darling, “the first, and a founding member of the Douglas Historical Society,” Chelsea Bielecki enjoys telling visitors all about the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum.

are likely to learn such things as that Dr. William Douglas offered funds to the town to establish and maintain a free school with thirty acres of land, a house and a barn for the privilege of naming the town. After 1745 the town was known as Douglas; and that the Declaration of Independence was unanimously approved at town meeting in 1776.

A green bench that sits in the

dry goods section “is original to the store and is nationally famous,” Ms. Bielecki said.

Items for sale in the gift shop include maps, mugs, baseball caps and sweatshirts.

“Every time I come in here and find something new, I feel like a kid in a candy store,” Ms. Bielecki said.

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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

tual 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 week-

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'm buying," Melissa Nydam (right) of Northbridge said, as she looks over some of the items for sale during Primitive Goods' fifth-anniversary open house.



"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.

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 ac-

end," 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

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We Have What You Need for Memorial Day!

Vote on May 24th to make your voice heard!

The Town of Uxbridge earned a place in history as the place where the first woman voted. In colonial America, women, members of minority groups and adults younger than 21 could not vote. Then in 1756, at a town meeting in Uxbridge, which was then a part of the Massachusetts colony, Lydia Taft (nee Chapin) became the first woman known to vote legally on October 30, 1756.

In the United States today, voting is a right, a privilege, and a civic responsibility. Citizens have fought hard to win the right to vote. Soldiers and civil rights workers have put their lives at risk and sometimes died defending your right to vote. Can you spare 20 minutes on May 24th to honor their work and their sacrifices?

Vote because your vote counts! Uxbridge is a small town of 14,162 people according to the 2020 US Census. In 2020 there were 10,718 eligible voters in Uxbridge who cast 3995 votes in the presidential election, but in the 2021 town elections only 1069 votes were cast, representing slightly more than 10% of eligible voters. Outcomes of our local elections are often decided by small majorities. For example, the difference between the winning candidate for School Committee in 2021 and the closest losing candidate

was only 14 votes! For positions with no identified candidates, people have been elected with as few as 24 write-in votes. Vote so you have a hand in choosing your leaders.

Vote as if your life depends on it. Some of the people you vote for control the purse strings in town, including how many police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel the town hires and the extent of their qualifications. You will be glad you did if your home catches fire, or if you or a loved one is involved in a serious traffic accident.

Vote to keep your money. The primary thing the local government does is collect property taxes and levy fines on water, sewer, and other municipal services. These take a significant chunk out of every person's and every family's income to pay for critical services such as police and fire departments, roads, and schools. Bond issues and propositions decide whether you pay higher property taxes for specific projects. You may feel that some are worthy of your tax dollars while others are not, but if you don't vote you aren't helping to decide.

Vote to secure your safety. Although crime is low in Uxbridge, we live in troubled times in this country. Different leaders have different opinions on how to protect us. At the same time,

some people think police officers have too much power, others believe that some portion of funding for police departments could be better spent on strengthening social services. Choose leaders who you feel will protect your life and civil rights.

Vote for the next generation. Decisions we make today impact our children, grandchildren and all generations that follow. Want to preserve open space for your own and their recreation? Want to fund the schools so that our children will be equipped to solve the local and global crises we've handed to them? Set a good example for our children and encourage civil and civic responsibility by casting your vote. They will be watching.

Vote or lose your right to complain. If you don't bother to cast a ballot you can't whine about problems in town. Agree with the decisions that a town official has made? Vote for them. Don't like the decisions that a town official has made? Vote for their opponent. But cast your vote and help decide who represents us at the table.

Vote to save the world. Global warming and environmental issues impact us all. These concerns must be balanced with economic factors and our energy needs. The carbon footprint we generate in Uxbridge, when added to those generated by all



Uxbridge Town Hall, on South Main Street.

other towns in Massachusetts, can have a significant impact on how resilient Uxbridge is in the face of climate change. Vote for candidates who will work to preserve open space and forests, support low-impact development, and reduce chemicals that threaten our health and that of our children. Or vote for people who oppose these measures because of their economic impact. But vote because in addition to being born with rights, we are also born with obligations to serve past, present, and future generations and the planet herself.

Most importantly, vote to preserve our democracy. All over

the world today, democracy - a system of governing in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them through a system of representation involving periodically held free elections - is threatened. When people don't vote, democracy is threatened because decisions are made by a minority of individuals. When you don't vote, you let other people make important decisions for you. If personal independence is important to you, then voting should be too.

Neglecting to vote is not rebellion, it's surrender. Bad people with terrible ideas get elected by good people who don't vote.

Really. If you don't vote, you surrender.

Your community matters, and it's bigger than you are. When you vote, you reach beyond your own selfish interests toward something we all have in common. Our communities are made up of friends, loved ones, neighbors, and children. Some may not know how important voting is, while others don't yet have the privilege. Make the decision to vote for yourself and those around you because you care about them and about the future of Uxbridge. Voting is an opportunity for change. Do you want to make a positive impact? Voting gives you that chance! Support the candidates and ballot measures that can help your community for the greater good. Make your voice heard! The community - all of us - depends on YOUR vote. Make it count!

Uxbridge Votes! On May 24th at the McCloskey School. Polls open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm.

Uxbridge for All is a non-partisan group of volunteers interested in the future of Uxbridge and, as such, supports and promotes effective local government and a thriving community. Our core guiding principles are transparency, inclusion, and stewardship.

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By Rod Lee

Two martinis and a case of mistaken identity

During the course of his long career as an owner and manager of Chuck's Steak House & Margarita Grill in Auburn, Steve Londregan has witnessed more than his share of humorous moments.

Chuck's, by the way, celebrated a 44th anniversary on Mother's Day.

Mr. Londregan, a recent president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, was happy to share "my funniest story ever" with The Feisty Fork.

"This happened around 1982 or 1984," he said. "I was behind the bar on a Sunday afternoon. A lovely older couple from Prospect



A varied menu has been a staple at Chuck's Steak House in Auburn for more than forty years.

St. who came in regularly always had martinis before they sat down to dinner. They did this that day, too, before walking into the dining room.

"About fifteen minutes later, one of our waitresses came running up to me and said 'Steve, you have to come, now.'

"I hurried into the dining room.

"Mrs. — had just come from our all-you-can-eat soup and salad bar. She said to me, 'Steve, this minestrone soup is ice cold.' She was very adamant about it."

Mr. Londregan recognized the problem right away. "I said to her 'Mrs. — you have a bowl of Italian salad dressing in front of you!

"That's all I got," Mr. Londregan added, on the telephone, in referring to the invitation The Feisty Fork has issued to restaurateurs for interesting items to be included in this column.

Patio dining in the works at Grille 122



Billy Therecka, owner of Grille 122 in Whitinsville, with Bruno. Grille 122 is open for lunch and dinner.

William "Billy" Therecka may have run into some bad luck, opening Grille 122 on Providence Road in Whitinsville in July of 2019, just before Covid-19 hit, but he held his ground and the restaurant is attracting a steady stream of customers.

"It was a bad time for everyone," he said on April 28th. "My sister has a restaurant in Coventry, Connecticut with water frontage and she faced the same issue. Now it's getting better. My only struggle is finding help (especially in the kitchen). I'm reaching out to everyone I know. I'm trying my best."

An ambitious and energetic man, Mr. Therecka was not about to be deterred by the pandemic, in his plans for Grille 122. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner. It also hosts functions, including business meetings, bridal showers and mercy dinners.

"I'm stubborn. I'm a workaholic, seven days a week," he said.

Mr. Therecka now owns the building in which Grille 122 is situated. He has also purchased two apartment buildings next door.

Although he didn't get much of a chance to incorporate outdoor dining into the mix last year, despite having set up an area with picnic tables for it to one side of the restaurant, he is looking to add an outdoor patio "with masonry and flowers"—possibly in time for patrons

to enjoy by the summer of 2023.

"If I do it, I want to do it right," he says. "When I'm done I don't want to have to worry about anything at all."

Mr. Therecka came into the town of Northbridge as an unknown but he has won over the local populace.

"My customers are my friends now," he said.

Then and now, at UXLocale

Elaine Cowan, owner/chef of UXLocale on Hartford Ave. West in Uxbridge, shared with The Feisty Fork these reflections about her restaurant's years, past to present.

The UXLocale, now, then, and everything in between. When asked to look back over the last few years and how they have changed the way we are doing business, a quick response could never suffice, and I still feel my shoulders move up to my ears as I type. In the beginning, after the initial shock wore off, there was a scramble to figure out how to make this whole thing work.

Then

Sleepless nights began on Monday, March 11. They lasted two weeks until I figured out converting my menu to 98% web-based business. Then, I converted the old ice cream windows to curbside pickup while losing over one-third of business, the ability to sell beer and wine with food helped a little, but overall, it was bleak.

Now

We still service the takeout window. Although it is steadily decreasing, while indoor dining is increasing, we still have a population of people who get curbside takeout every week. These people have been with us through the darkest hours, and I will do this as long as they need me. One silver lining is that I got to know so many regulars by their orders: some would even write little notes of encouragement on their slips. These little notes got us through the worst of it.

Then

Like the UXLocale, many other businesses were doing the same thing: going online, which caused servers to crash, slips not print-



Pizza is just one of the favorites with diners at UXLocale in Uxbridge.

ing to the kitchen, or pizza oven. A little background. On an average day, we begin prep at 10:00 a.m. Service begins at 5:00. After cleanup and sanitation, it's usually a decent twelve-hour day. I had no time for a learning curve. I worked with the POS people to move all my content to another server.

Continued on page 9

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THE FEISTY FORK

Continued from previous page

Now

Every Wednesday-Saturday, I manually check inventory, take photos of everything I make, write descriptions, and get them up online before 10:00 a.m. That has not changed. Then a quick post to Instagram and Facebook, and I'm on my way to doing the thing I love. COOK!

Then

Because I converted my pantry into a takeout expedition center, I moved my pantry to the dining room. With that, I obtained a retail license and sold Italian imports and local cheeses.

Then Part II

When we were able to seat folks inside again, I kept small pyramids of pantry items for two reasons: transparency—people got to see the ingredients they were eating; and social distancing. Fortunately, the pyramids created a barrier between tables, and plexiglass went up...everywhere.

Now

The dining room has been relieved of all the (Covid) extras. I built some new narrow tables that allow space and symmetry. We host Wise Guys Trivia on Wednesday nights. Live music is back most Fridays. We added a proper DJ booth, and on Saturdays, DJ Proud Larry spins records. He may be the only DJ who spins records—no antics, just outstanding music.

Now Part II

Inventory is a struggle, the same products that I rely on aren't always available. If the pricing increases are too high, I'm fearful not to pass that on to the diner, but I still want a family to be able to come and dine without breaking the bank. We have gone up on some things because I will not substitute quality ingredients.

Now

The menu! Because everyone's schedule is still so topsy-turvy, I run "weekend" specials every night. Some things I can't in good conscience put in a box to go, but if it travels without ruining texture and presentation, I'll let it ride. So lots of my specials are going back to my roots. Keeping it fresh, flavorful, and unfussy.

Throughout-Today

My staff. There is no scenario where we successfully came out of this without the fantastic people behind the scenes, the ones you barely see. Still, they are grinding day in and day out, 99% of whom have been with me since the beginning and all the people in the front that you see. I've made some great hires. They want to be there, and they are about what happens next. I feel so incredibly fortunate to have the staff I have. Something remarkable that I notice daily is how kind they are to one another. That's a gift.

Submit your restaurant news to The Feisty Fork by email to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

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LOST 80 LIVE AUGUST 7 • 1PM	ABBA THE CONCERT AUGUST 12 • 7PM	BADFISH AUGUST 13 • 1PM

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GET THE LED OUT	AUGUST 26 • 7PM
EXTREME	SEPTEMBER 2 • 7PM
AARON LEWIS AND THE STATELINERS	SEPTEMBER 3 • 1PM
THE PIKE ROKFEST	SEPTEMBER 10 • 12PM
COUNTRYFEST	SEPTEMBER 11 • 12PM
JAMEY JOHNSON	OCTOBER 8 • 1PM

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The Indian Ranch Box Office is open Thursday through Monday, 10AM - 4PM. Tickets are also available by phone: 1-800-514-ETIX (3849). All events are rain or shine. No refunds. For ticketing and group sales, contact tickets@indianranch.com or call 508.943.3871. For event booking, contact banquets@samuelslaters.com. Indian Ranch is less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA.

Happenings!

NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the Happenings! section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

THROUGH MAY 31

• May Art Exhibit, "Is There Beauty Within Tragedy," at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, featuring the work of Eren Torres, a seventeen-year-old up-and-coming artist and a proud member of the LGBT community. A meet-and-greet with

the artist will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 14th. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com for further info.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

• G9 Financial's 9th annual Document Shredding Event will be held from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Ray's True Value, 22 Howe Ave. in Millbury. All proceeds benefit the Owen E. Carrigan Sports Scholarship and Memorial Fund for deserving local students. Donations of \$20, \$40, \$60 or more are suggested. Call 508-865-9599 or email info@G9Financial.com for more information.

• The Oxford Woman's Club is hosting a Flea Market at St. Roch's Field on Main St. from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, May 21. Space is available for \$25; bring your own table. Call Paula, 508-987-2804 for more information.

• A Poetry Workshop with Robert Eugene Perry will be held from 10:00 a.m.-noon, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. \$25 per person. Mr. Perry's first novel, *Where The Journey Takes You*, a spiritual allegory combining poetry and prose, was published in 2007.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

• Open Mic Poetry is being offered at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., moderated by Robert Eugene Perry. Round-robin style in a friendly environment. Space is limited. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com for more details.

• The Northbridge 250th Anniversary Committee is hosting an after-hours Beer & Wine Tasting in the Great Room of Northbridge Town Hall as a fundraiser for the parade and fireworks scheduled for July 16th (with a rain date of July 17th).

• "Bruce in the USA," featuring the

musicianship of Bruce Springsteen, kicks off Indian Ranch's Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series (see more, below, on Indian Ranch's blockbuster upcoming season).

SUNDAY, MAY 22

• The Millbury Redevelopment Authority's fifth annual Food Truck Festival & Craft Fair will be held rain or shine on the grounds of Millbury High School on Martin St. from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A variety of food trucks, vendors including crafters and musical entertainment.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

• The Charlton Lions Club's Membership Drive & Reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Overlook Great Room, Masonic Home, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. There will be wine, cheese, friendship and a chance to learn more about one of the town's most active and important civic organizations and all of the good work its members do in terms of providing scholarships, handicap ramps and disaster relief, addressing sight, hearing and health needs, giving out gift cards for Christmas to families in need, and more. For more information or to make a donation email thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

• The Boys & Girls Club of Webster Dudley is hosting a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Point Breeze, Webster. This is a fundraiser with a raffle and door prize; \$15. Bring an item for the Webster Dudley Food Share. Call Liz Hamilton, 508-754-2686 x201 or Rob Bouchard, 508-612-2200, for more information.



Matt Ryan from the world-famous "Legends in Concert" cast will headline Indian Ranch's "Bruce in the USA" show on May 21st, kicking off the venue's Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series.

MONDAY, MAY 30 MEMORIAL DAY

• Memorial Day Parade, Northbridge, 9:30 a.m.; contact Don Lessard, derbydan476@gmail.com or 508-476-2836 for more information.

• Memorial Day Parade, Putnam, 10:00 a.m.

• Memorial Day Parade, Webster Dudley.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

• bankHometown is hosting a Shred Day, 8:30 a.m.-noon, 4 Gore Road, Webster. Bring old mail, receipts, statements, bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records and other unwanted paper documents.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

• A Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale will be held at First Congregational Church, 128 Central Ave., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Spaces are available for \$25, tables (on a limited basis) for \$5. Annuals and perennials. Call or text Cindy, 774-238-0260, or contact

the church office, 508-832-2845, for further details.

• Open Sky Community Services announces a spring return for the 37th Annual Valley Friendship Tour from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will start and end at the Alternatives Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, with yoga, music, raffles and food on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza at the same address. Participants can choose between a one-mile walk (the "Golden Mile"), a 5K walk/run, or a 30-mile bicycle ride. The Valley Friendship Tour has been the signature fundraising event for Alternatives Unlimited (now Open Sky Community Services) for 33 years. Since it began it has raised over \$3 million in support of individuals and families in Central Massachusetts, including \$160,000 in 2021. To pre-register \$30, visit openskycs.org/vft2022. Registration the day of the event is \$35.

• Memphis Sun Mafia, an Elvis tribute trio, kicks off the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and

Continued on page 11

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HAPPENINGS
Continued from page 10

Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas. \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids admitted free, 5:30-8:00 p.m. No rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for further info.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

• The Sutton Historical Society's town-wide yard sale will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, June 19. The cost is \$10 for



Rhino Encounters will be a highlight of Earth Limited's BASH at Southwick's Zoo on June 24, the organization's largest fundraiser of the year.

10:00 p.m. Proceeds support EARTH Limited's many education initiatives, such as internships, docent/volunteer training, rhino encounters, zoo mobiles, wild adventure programs, junior zoo keeping and more. Guests will enjoy an event of adventure and explore the zoo after-hours. Go to earthltd.org to purchase tickets. Email Betsy Brewer Bethel at betsey@southwick-zoo.com for more details about EARTH Limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

• Dark Desert Eagles, the ultimate tribute band to The Eagles, comes to Indian Ranch in Webster as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Songs from The Eagles' Greatest Hits 1971-1975 album along with hits from Hotel California and several gems from Joe Walsh's solo career will be featured in this live show. Touched by the passing of Glenn Frey,

a co-founder of The Eagles, Pat Badger (an original member of the multi-platinum rock act Extreme) set out to form Dark Desert Eagles in paying homage to The Eagles' musicianship, vocal harmonies and timeless catalog. In doing so, "we really paid attention to the wardrobe, the hairstyles, the guitars...everything that made The Eagles so cool," he says.

Continued on page 12



The Valley Friendship Tour hosted by Open Sky Community Services returns this year with a walk, a 5K walk/run and a bicycle ride on June 11. Uxbridge Lions had a great time at the Tour, in 2016.

participating resident addresses to be included on a map and in advertising for the event. Registration forms are available at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org. Limited table space at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singleary Ave., is also available for \$10. The Society is accepting donated items (no upholstered furniture or electronic equipment) and will pick up if necessary. Contact sutton1704@gmail.com for more details.

• Tony Soul Project, from the Delta Blues to Soul to Rock & Roll, will perform as part of the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Check douglasorchardandfarm.com for further info.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

• EARTH Limited's largest annual fundraiser is back for 2022 at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, from 5:00 to

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HAPPENINGS
Continued from page 11

ALSO UPCOMING AT INDIAN RANCH:

June 5, Trace Adkins; June 11, The Outlaws; June 19, The Mavericks; July 2, Michael Franti & Spearhead; July 8, Get The Led Out; July 9, Scott McCreery; July 17, Little River Band; July 23, Ann Wilson of Heart; July 24, Three Dog Night; July 30, The Pike Hairfest; July 31, TESLA; August 5, "Weird" Al Yankovic; August 6, Collective Soul and Switchfoot; August 7, Lost 80s Live; August 12, ABBA The Concert; August 13, Badfish; August 20, Home Free; September 2, Extreme.

Tickets are available at www.indi-

anranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-3849 or at the Indian Ranch Box Office.

Rolling Stones & CCR Tributes: 19th Nervous Breakdown with Kelly and the Poor Boys: A Creedence Tribute Band, will perform as part of the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

MONDAY, JULY 4

Celebrate the 4th on the Grafton Common! Dress up in costume! Decorate your bicycle! Build a float! Dress up your dog! From North St. to Oak St. starting at 12:00 p.m. Line up at the North Grafton Elementary School. For

more details contact grafton4thofjulyparade@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

• A Night of Zeppelin: A Led Zeppelin Tribute Band, comes to Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, as part of the facility's Summer Concert Series, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

• The town of Northbridge's 250th anniversary festivities will kick off with a parade from the elementary school on Crescent St. at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with fireworks at the middle



Teenager Eren Torres' artwork interpreting whether there is beauty within tragedy will be featured throughout the month of May at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster.



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school on Linwood Ave. Gates will open at 6:00 p.m. for the pyrotechnics show, which will be preceded by activities for the whole family: food trucks, music, face painting, potato-sack races and more.

• Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, welcomes Araxas—a Santana Tribute Band, for a show at 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Part of the Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert Series. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Visit douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

• Exit 17th Band, a Rock & Roll Band, will perform at part of Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert Series, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older. Kids get in free, no rain date.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

• Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Petty Larceny, a Tom Petty Tribute Band, 5:30-8:00 p.m., 36 Locust St., Douglas. \$10 cash per person, kids are admitted free, no rain date. Visit douglasorchardandfarm.com for more details.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

• 4 Ever Fab, a Beatles Tribute Band, will perform as part of Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert series, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person for those 16-and-older. Kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

• Counterfeit Cash, a Johnny Cash Tribute Band, will perform at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for further details.



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Tales from beyond

Creatures of The Bridgewater Triangle - Part 1

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

One of the most famous, if not the most famous areas along US Route 44 lies in what is known as the Bridgewater Triangle. Residents of Southeastern Massachusetts have long been plagued by strange phenomena that has mystified scientists, archaeologists, cryptozoologists, historians and researchers of the paranormal. The triangle is a parcel of land two hundred square miles in size that apparently harbors mythical creatures, ghostly lights, phantoms, and even UFOs.

The triangle first got its name in the 1970s when researcher Loren Coleman carried out paranormal investigations in the area. Following his extensive research and studies, he mapped out a triangle where the strange phenomena seemed to be intensely active. Christopher Balzano, paranormal investigator and author, compiled an astounding amount of data on the area. This data he used to write several books including, "Ghosts of the Bridgewater Triangle."

The corners of the triangle are defined by the towns of Abington, Freetown, and Rehoboth. Within the triangle are the towns of Taunton, Brockton, Rayn-

ham, Bridgewater, Marshfield, Norton, Easton, North Middleboro, Segragonset, Dighton, North Dighton, Berkeley, and Myricks. Within the triangle lies the Hockomock Swamp, where much of the activity is focused. Accounts of strange creatures abound in the triangle. Here are some that have stunned researchers and scientists alike.

In 1988 two boys followed a pair of giant three-toed footprints into the swamp. To their horror they came upon a massive bird-like creature that neither had ever witnessed the likes of in their life. The winged monster caught a glimpse of the two boys and took off straight into the air. The frightened youths ran for their lives, later ranting their story to police and neighbors. It was concluded that the two youths witnessed a great blue heron, a very large bird native to the New England area. The children swore the creature they saw was much larger than any heron, being more the size of a tall man with half human features. The story was almost laughable until someone remembered another similar sighting. This one was by a well-respected and notable Norton police sergeant named Thomas Downy.

In 1971, as Sergeant Downy

was driving home along Winter Street in Marshfield, he came upon a giant creature standing at the edge of the swamp. According to the officer, it resembled a bird, but stood over six feet tall. The creature moved toward the car, then flew straight up away from the vehicle. It had a wingspan of about eight to twelve feet in length. When other officers arrived at the scene, a few large three-toed footprints were all that was found as evidence of such a creature. Oddly enough, the sighting was at a place called Bird Hill where the indigenous people spoke frequently of a legendary Thunderbird. Their ancestors claimed the great bird lived in the swamp and to this day, apparently still does.

Thunderbirds are not solely responsible for the cryptid sightings within Bridgewater Triangle. A more famous and often talked about "monster" is reported to roam the area. It is the creature affectionately known as Bigfoot, Yeti or Sasquatch. In 1970, residents reported seeing a hairy seven-foot monster running through their yards, sometimes on all four legs. Local and state police conducted a lengthy manhunt for a giant bear, yet no such animal was ever spotted or captured.

On April 8, 1970, two offi-

cers were parked in a police cruiser near the swamp. Suddenly, the rear end of the car lifted into the air and then dropped with a loud bang. The officers quickly spun the car around and trained their spotlight on something hairy resembling a bear as it ran on two legs behind a house. A thorough search of the area commenced, but no bear, or any other creature, was ever found.

A hunter once shot at a large

animal in the woods that ran off and gave a half human, half animal cry. Later he found brown hair and blood on some leaves along the path the creature fled down. A woman in West Bridgewater heard a noise one night in her yard. She looked out her window and saw a large bipedal creature eating a pumpkin in her garden. The hairy animal looked at her through the window with reddish-orange eyes then with a

grunt, took off with the pumpkin into the woods.

A triangle resident, Joseph M. De Andrade, spent decades collecting reports of the creature. The average lifespan of a wild bear is about five to seven years. Fifteen years would be extremely unlikely and thirty years in the wild is impossible. So what is it out there roaming along the outskirts of the human population?

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Living with Luke

Our time, as Luke learns his way around

By Amy LeClaire

Luke Valentino has been a part of our family for only two weeks, yet it feels as though we've known him our whole lives. He's comfortable in his new home, secure with his new dog family, and determined to learn, please and communicate his needs. In the process, he's exposed a puppy personality that has won us over. He's laid-back yet playful, intelligent and intuitive, affectionate and affable. He's everything contained in the unscrambled letters of his full name: L-O-V-E.

"I love you, Luke Valentino." I lift him from his crated

bed each morning, pull him to my chest, and breathe in the warm scent of puppy breath. He yawns, licks my chin and studies my mouth with a wet nose. I'm disheveled and tired, dressed in frayed, March layers but the moment is immensely joyful. "Let's go do pee-pee." Our day begins.

Together, he and I engage in training sessions which unfold naturally during playtimes threaded with teachable moments. Luke's intelligent and calm nature makes the process smooth, though the job of training a puppy is bound by work. He is learning how to live under human conditions—no easy task—even for a human. I don't want to take the pup out of my puppy, but we need to be reasonable.

"Luke, please!" I am ten times heavier, five times taller, and over fifty years older. I teach up to six Zumba classes per

week, yet I am unable to catch my ten-pound pup. He zig-zags like a fly throughout the yard, a piece of mulch resting dangerously in his mouth.

We compete in another game of Keep Away, one in which Luke plays the Star and I assume the less glamorous role of Crazy Dog Person. My bashful lamb of a pup has put on a devil's costume. Worse, it's twenty-five degrees out. My muscles are stiff and tight, my shoelaces untied. Luke has worn me to the bone. I finally reach him and pry open his tiny mouth, visions of surgical risk sailing through my head. Where is the mulch? Did it drop out on its own? I set him down. He dashes off then sits fifteen feet away and stares at me, a casual tobacco chewer. "You didn't." Oh, but he did. Clever Luke hid the piece of mulch beneath his tongue.

My pup has a mind of his



own, but it's a smart one. I've learned to capitalize on his intelligence and willingness to learn. He's the first puppy I've had to not only learn the commands sit, stay, and come at only eight weeks but, also, apply them to spontaneous (real life) situations.

"Luke, come!" I'll never forget the first time he spun around to come back to me after dashing towards a dog walker. Hard work had led to the reward of knowing that my puppy will be safe while allowed off-the-leash time. I'm a believer in letting a dog be a dog. A dog ought to run freely, sniff, explore, dig, and roll in the grass. Luke comes back, sits at my feet, and looks up at me. His teddy bear face betrays a chimpanzee mind. I reward him with a kibble (from his own diet), a blueberry, or piece of apple. "What a good boy you

crinkles his snout and growls, the toughie of a motorcycle gang wearing a royal blue harness as a vest. He stiffens and lets the big dog see him roar. He's just doing his job, scaring off the baddies to protect his turf. He's been in his home for only a few weeks, yet he's compelled to protect it. He makes me smile over and over again. After losing Lincoln, it was hard to imagine that I could love another puppy this much, and so uniquely. There was only one Lincoln. There will only be one Lincoln. Yet this little guy has stolen my heart.

"We are a good team." I cradle him like a baby and he chews on my sweatshirt tassel. His eyes are as black as marbles, his nose moist. He reminds me of inno-



are! That was really hard!" I gush and praise my puppy. I'm a proud parent who's not above driving with a bumper sticker that reads, My Puppy Comes When Called.

The consistency required to train a puppy (on top of hours wedged between my own work, household and social life) has become a full-time job but I do believe that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

Luke seems to feel the same way. He's already shown protectiveness to our family; barking at the big dogs who stop by to visit. His innate ability to do so, coupled with a lion's will to set the dogs straight, are a sight to see. His bark, though mighty, is still unmistakably that of a puppy's. Luke Valentino, in action, has no idea how cute he is. He

and goodness, and how simple happiness can be. I want to stop time and freeze the moment but my puppy is on the move.

I rest on the assurance that time (in lieu of rest) is on our hands now. There will be time to watch Luke take one more dramatic, flying leap off of the second-to-last deck stair and time to watch him zoom around the house at record speed. There will be time to zip through shopping aisles like burglars on the run and time to sit out on the deck and watch the birds, just as Lincoln and I used to do. There will be time because this is our time.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke as Luke Valentino adapts to his new home! Write to me at amyklaire@hotmail.com

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

Q. I have a 2000 Buick Park Avenue with 181,000 miles on it. The automatic climate control is "shot." Air comes through the vents only and only blows hot. Even when I'm on the highway with the system off there is hot air coming through the vents. I closed all the vents, but the hot air is coming in, is this a blend door issue? I know it's hard to get to some of these doors, is there any easy fix?

A. Unfortunately, there is no easy fix. Unlike old cars that used cables to open and close vents and turn on heater valves, today these systems use vacuum and electric actuators. In your Buick there are four actuators. The air inlet, mode control, left air mix and right air mix. The air discharge is controlled by the mode door actuator. The actuator drives a cam wheel that controls the position of the two air discharge doors. Depending on which door or actuator is bad it can take 30 minutes to three hours to repair the problem.

Q. I have a 2007 Honda Pilot and I have owned it from brand new. My question is I changed the timing belt at 95,000 and it currently has 171,000 miles on it. I have had all of the regular maintenance performed and was wondering when I should change the timing belt again. The car is still in great shape and I would like to use it as my commuter car and hope to get another 100,000 out of it.

A. Typically, the timing belt on the Pilot gets changed at about 100,000 miles. My suggestion is if you plan on keeping your Pilot for another 100,000 miles it would make sense to replace the timing belt again this year. Considering the mileage, I would also replace the water pump and evaluate any seals for oil seepage, as well as drive belts and tensioners.

Q. I own a 2013 Volvo wagon with 235,000 miles. It still runs perfectly, and my mechanic says I can surely get to 300,000 miles which I aim to do. My question is about the steering: this car has always had wonderful steering – holds the road really well and not loosey, goosey like so many other vehicles. When I have test driven many other cars for my growing kids, it feels much less controllable on the road – the



slightest movement of the wheel and you feel the car sway. Can you tell me what it is that makes the steering in my Volvo such a dream? What should I look/ask for in my next car to get the same kind of control that I have now?

A. Today most/nearly every new car has electronic power steering depending on the car that can translate into somewhat of an artificial "feel" in the steering. This can have a bit of loose feeling on center to an almost twitchy overly sensitive feel. There was a time when BMWs had legendary almost telepathic steering, but even that has changed over the years. Unfortunately, you need to road test the car that best suits your needs. Even the latest Volvos have lost a bit of that steering feel that you like in your car. The other determining factor can be tires, tires can transform a car's steering from direct to mushy.

Q. I have a 2005 Toyota Camry XLE with 150,000 miles on it. I recently brought it to a repair shop for an oil change. The "maintenance required" light was on, so I asked them to reset it. When I picked up the car, I noticed that the electronic clock was not working. Instead of displaying the time, it displayed "E/T: 93:04" and would continue to count up as long as the engine was running. I went back into the repair shop, and they tried playing with the radio fuses, but could not correct the issue. They told me that the clock display was now showing the engine elapsed time. Any thoughts on how to get the display to show the time?

A. There are times simple things feel complicated and you need to just look in the vehicle owner's manual for clarity. You need to use the mode setting and toggle back to the clock. Today nearly all newer cars have owner's manuals online. As an example, <https://www.toyota.com/owners/resources/warranty-owners-manuals.camry.2005>

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RE: Real Estate

The dream of homeownership is worth the wait



Mark Marzeotti

By Mark Marzeotti

If you're in the market to buy a home this season, stick with it. Homebuyers face challenges in any market, and today's is no exception. But if you persevere, your decision to purchase a home will be worth the effort in the end. In fact, a recent survey among new homeowners revealed that nearly three in four

say they would still buy their current home if they had it to do all over again.

That means the results of owning a home and the benefits that come with it outweigh the effort needed to achieve their goal. If you're a homebuyer, let that give you the confidence to know the work you're putting in today will pay off for years to come.

Here are a few reasons to stick with your search and focus on the outcome.

- Homeownership contributes significantly to your financial well-being. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) lists several motivations to consider if you're thinking about buying a home. One of the top financial reasons is the equity you build. Money paid for rent is money that you'll never see again, but mortgage payments let you build equity. Building equity in your home is a ready-made savings plan. Your equity is a powerful tool you can leverage in a number of ways. And with recent home price appreciation, homeowners are seeing record levels of equity today. That may be one reason why so many people view owning a home as a great investment and a top indicator of financial well-being. In fact, the same recent survey mentioned above reveals that Americans place a higher



value on homeownership than on any other indicator of economic stability.

"Owning a home ranks above other major accomplishments, like retirement, having a successful career, and getting a college degree." That shows just how impactful the financial benefits of homeownership truly are.

- The emotional benefits of owning a home are powerful

too. Of course, homeownership is more than an investment. In a buyers' list of top reasons to buy a home, some non-financial aspects of homeownership emerge. Among these is the opportunity to customize your home to reflect your personality and needs. The home is yours. You can decorate any way you want and choose the types of upgrades and new amenities that appeal to your lifestyle.

- Another benefit homeowners enjoy is the stability it provides. Homeowners typically stay put longer than renters. When you remain in one place longer than a few years, you can grow closer to your community. And that can enhance your sense of pride and lead to better relationships.

What does that mean for you? The benefits of homeownership are powerful, from building personal wealth to fostering communities.

Even if you face challenges in today's market, the payoff when you succeed and purchase a home will be worth it.

If you're planning to buy a home this year, there are incredible benefits waiting for you at the end of your journey. Speak with a team member at Marzeotti Group or a trusted real estate advisor today about everything homeownership has to offer.

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The Easter Bunny; and summer concerts at Douglas Orchard & Farm

The Easter Bunny visited Douglas Orchard & Farm over the April 9th and 10th weekend, and enjoyed time with fami-

lies in the farm's greenhouse.

Over sixty families were able to take advantage of photo opportunities during private

ten-minute sessions. Not only were pictures taken, the Easter Bunny and the children laughed while dancing, giving high fives,



Above, an appearance by the Easter Bunny was a highlight of activities at the Douglas Orchard & Farm over the April 9th and 10th weekend.

Memphis Sun Mafia, an Elvis Trio, will kick off Douglas Orchard & Farm's Summer Concert Series on June 11th.

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hugging and, yes, hopping like a bunny while Easter music was played.

Families also got to see the farm animals during their visit. Parents were pleased with the experience.

Chevon, a mother from Brookfield, said "some of our friends complained about waiting in lines at the malls to get a pic with the Easter Bunny and I told them next year just go to the farm."

The Easter Bunny's visit followed a celebration of National Livestock Day on April 2nd, when five hundred people got to see oxen plowing the farm and to view other farm animals from Douglas Orchard & Farm and six other farms in Massachusetts and Connecticut.



Douglas Orchard & Farm staff looks forward to a great season of blueberry picking, our outdoor summer concert series, apple picking and both fresh blueberry and apple cider donuts made on the farm.

Douglas Orchard & Farm is pleased to announce dates for its 2022 Summer Concert Series. Bring your own chairs and blankets and picnic baskets if you wish. Food available from EB Flats (except August 6th), serving BBQ and more. \$10 cash per person 16-and-older (no reservations needed); kids admitted free. No rain date. All shows 5:30-8:00 p.m.:

- Saturday, June 11**
 Memphis Sun Mafia
 Elvis Tribute Artist
- Saturday, June 18**
 Tony Soul Project
 From the Delta Blues to Soul to Rock & Roll
- Saturday, June 25**
 Rolling Stones & CCR Tributes: 19th Nervous Breakdown with Kelly & the Poor Boys: A

- Creedence Tribute Band.
- Saturday, July 9**
 A Night of Zeppelin
 A Led Zeppelin Tribute Band
- Saturday, July 16**
 Araxas—A Santana Tribute Band
- Saturday, July 23**
 Exit 17th Band
 A Rock & Roll Band
- Saturday, July 30th**
 Petty Larceny
 A Tom Petty Tribute Band
- Saturday, August 6th**
 4 Ever Fab
 A Beatles Tribute Band
- Saturday, August 13**
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 A Johnny Cash Tribute Band

For the most updated news about Douglas Orchard & Farm, check out the business's website at douglasorchardandfarm.com, or on Facebook at Douglas Orchard and Farm.

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Blackstone River Valley brims with wildlife

One of the country's newest national parks, the Blackstone River Valley never ceases to surprise; witness this image of two Great Horned Owls in Blackstone captured by Paul S. Robinson Photography.

In other news from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, the re-

ipients of the John H. Chaffee Heritage Award for 2021 have been named, and are as follows:

Congressman James P. McGovern-MA.

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed-RI
Ross Weaver, Sutton, MA
John Marsland, Cumberland, RI

Student Award: Painting

& Design Technology students at Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School (seventeen sophomores).

Corridor officials note too that many historic cemeteries through the region have fallen into disrepair and experienced neglect. Fortunately, volunteers who have the skill and desire to

preserve and protect them are doing their part.

May is National Preservation Month.

For information on how you can help, contact Molly Cardoza, director of volunteer and community engagement for the Corridor, at mcardoza@Blackstone-HeritageCorridor.org.



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 **Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor**

BLACKSTONE VALLEY DAY

June 14, 2022 | First pitch at 6:45PM
Polar Park | 100 Madison Street, Worcester MA



Join the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor for "Blackstone Valley Day" at Polar Park! Enjoy some delicious food, a good game and a ceremonial first pitch by Devon Kurtz, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, while celebrating our wonderful Valley and the tercentennial birthday of Worcester, MA.

Pricing: \$25*

*\$10 loaded value included

Register at www.blackstonevalley.org/events/
Contact Liz O'Neil at loneil@blackstonevalley.org for more information.

Nichols College expands revolutionary CIPA program

Nichols College, a private institution of higher learning in Dudley, announces the expansion of its prestigious Center for Intelligent Process Automation program with the debut of a new research fellowship program designed to pave the way for the next generation of process automation (RPA) developers.

The first two fellows, Kieran Gilmurray and Tyler Krimmel (Toronto, Canada) have already embarked on this as they study to innovate the future of work within the Industrial Revolution 4.0.

Unlike any program currently offered in higher-level academia today, the student-run CIPA is the result of a groundbreaking partnership between the business education specialists at Nichols College and the internationally recognized tech leaders at NICE to bring Robotic Process Automation (RPA) training and implementation to business at every scale. Designed to take the program to new heights, the research fellowship was implemented to contribute to the school's intellectual life and support the mission of the CIPA: to support global digital transformation by enabling participation and accessibility for all stakeholders.

Having already welcomed its first two fellows this semester, Gilmurray and Krimmel have hit the ground running. Working directly with CIPA faculty on extensive research projects, these two brilliant minds are currently exploring the much-debated process of citizen development, which enables non-IT employees to become software developers. They are also working to identify innovative, yet effective practices for using RPA for business analysis.

Glenn M. Sulmasy, president of Nichols College, said, "As technology becomes more accessible and digital transformation becomes a necessity for innovation and marketplace success, the role of citizen developer has emerged to allow business users to take greater control over the changes rather than relying solely on IT departments to generate software solutions for business. Through this fellowship program, our hope is to attract the best and brightest within the industry to help us identify best practices and improvements in business analysis. In doing so, we'll have the ability to identify automation candidates earlier, confidently work to define needs, scenarios, and exceptions to be automated, and establish a living repository of use cases to expedite future automations. These activities will help to



reduce the barrier of entry to automation technologies and make the pathway to automation adoption less frightening."

Bringing more than 25 years of experience to the fellowship program, Gilmurray currently serves as an enterprise automation lead at Rapid7, a leading cyber security company. Blending his extensive background in driving business transformation programs using digital technology, intelligent automation, data analytics, social media and RPA, Gilmurray is focused on working with industry leaders to investigate the competing perspectives on the efficacy of citizen development while also working to successfully adopting new approach that best aligns with the industry's constantly changing organizational strategy and goals.

The other fellowship is led by Krimmel, a professor at George Brown College in Toronto with more than fifteen years of experience designing and delivering training in government, academic, and corporate settings. Focused on supporting the CIPA mission of pairing business partners with Nichols' students, Krimmel has already supported the CIPA team in establishing a baseline approach to conducting business analysis in support of RPA initiatives. Through his research, he will support the team in optimizing the approach, while also tracking the project conditions and details that may impact the requirements delivery and solution definition. His findings will be shared with industry stakeholders to educate and support the use of RPA to address business needs.

For more information about the CIPA research fellowship, visit <https://cipa.nichols.edu/news/cipa-research-fellowship-program/>. For more information about the Center for Intelligent Process Automation, visit <https://cipa.nichols.edu/>.

DOUGLAS ORCHARD & FARM

2022 Summer Concert Series

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\$10 cash per person /16 and under are free.

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Bring your own chairs/blankets and picnic basket if you wish. Pay upon entrance (no reservations needed).

<p>Saturday, June 11th</p> <p>Elvis Tribute Group</p>	<p>Saturday, June 18th</p> <p>TONY SOUL PROJECT</p> <p>From the Delta Blues to Soul to Rock & Roll</p>	<p>Saturday, June 25th</p> <p>Rolling Stones & CCR Tributes: 19th Nervous Breakdown w/Kelly & the Poor Boys: A Creedence Tribute Band</p> <p>19th NERVOUS BREAKDOWN A ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE</p>
<p>Saturday, July 9th</p> <p>A Led Zeppelin Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, July 16th</p> <p>A Santana Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, July 23rd</p> <p>ROCK N' ROLL</p>
<p>Saturday, July 30th</p> <p>Tom Petty Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, August 6th</p> <p>BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND</p>	<p>Saturday, August 13th</p> <p>COUNTERFEIT CASH A Tribute to the Man in Black</p>

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Award-winning Festival of Illumination returning to Southwick's Zoo

In February of this year, Southwick's Zoo's 2021 Festival of Illumination Brochure was awarded two top design awards – 1st place in New England and 4th Place Internationally for 2021 Best De-

sign, International Association of Visitor Information and the CTM Media Group. Scores of nominees were submitted from thousands of eligible designs from around the world including South Africa, Indonesia,

Europe, and North America.

The original design and elements of the brochure were created by Belinda Mazur of Images by Belinda Mazur, Sutton, MA.

Southwick's Zoo in Men-

don is excited to be hosting the 2nd Annual Festival of Illumination beginning this September running through to January of 2023. This year's theme "Once Upon a Time" will showcase the fascinating

and forgotten stories of legends, myths, and fairytales through the incredible artistry of custom handmade Chinese lanterns. The four month long premier Chinese Lantern Festival is presented in partnership with the award-winning Zigong Lantern Group and is the largest of its kind hosted in New England.

From early September to January 1, 2023, Southwick's Zoo will again be illuminated by breathtaking custom-built exhibits consisting of a multitude of Chinese lanterns constructed from silk, steel, and environmentally friendly LED lights. Guests will be immersed into epic journey and fantasy world of extraordinary beauty, magic, and mystery through the stories of legends, myths, and fairytales. Beginning on November 25th Southwick's Zoo's popular Winter Wonderland will be added where guests can enjoy a festive train ride through the enchanted holiday lighting display.

The Zigong Lantern Group is the largest Chinese lantern festival group in the world with over 20 years of experience in creating these breathtaking events. Zigong has partnered

with locations worldwide including the Dublin Zoo, RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, the Nashville Zoo, UK's Longleat House, and Magnolia Plantation, South Carolina. The group's artisans will hand craft the lantern displays on-site at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, MA.

"Festival of Illumination" will be open 5 days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, from September 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023. Beginning the middle of May, tickets for this must see experience will go on sale at www.festivalofillumination.com or www.southwickzoo.com,

Southwick's Zoo is a privately-owned zoo located at 2 Southwick Street in Mendon, MA and has been a favorite New England destination for over 50 years. This zoo is home to over 850 animals, featuring more than 160 varied species, many of which are endangered. Southwick's Zoo's mission is to provide an extensive zoological collection and educational facility for their visitors, offering exciting family fun and entertainment for guests of all ages.



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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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Introduction to Welding	This training prepares students with welding vocabulary, techniques, and basic operations of a welding gun using augmented reality welders.	July 18-Aug.24: Mon/Wed, 6-8:30pm
CNC Machinist Apprentice Course	This training is a commitment of 150 hours which includes topics in shop math, blueprint reading, quality assurance, safety, work readiness, CNC mill operations, CNC lathe operations, and gcode. Upon completion of the technical training, the apprentice will be placed with a cooperative employer to receive on-the-job-training for 1 year.	July 18- Sept.28: Mon/Wed/Fri, 9am-3pm
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