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May 13 - June 10, 2022



The interior of Charlton Laundromat & Cleaners on City Depot Road, recently upgraded by Mr. Lebeau.

New entrepreneur joins Charlton business scene with a bang

By Rod Lee

As one of the town of Charlton's newest businesspersons, Randy Lebeau is setting his sights high.

Mr. Lebeau just turned twenty-nine years of age and he also recently closed "on my plaza and the Charlton Laundromat" on City Depot Road.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served with the Corps' Engineers in Okinawa, Korea and the Philippines, he is only just beginning his entrepreneurial journey.

"I got a five-year lease signed for George's Pizza and next month I'm getting a five-year lease signed for a tattoo shop," he posted on Facebook on April 20th.

"Stop talking about your next move

and do it."

Mr. Lebeau, who lives in Webster, readily acknowledges a restlessness for the next big thing.

"I'm putting in a lot of updates at the laundromat," he said on May 4th. "The previous owner kind of neglected it. My goal is to just keep building and moving forward, maybe storage units. It's all I do all day, is think of what business I want to start next. You have to stay busy."

Mr. Lebeau's latest inspiration is to launch a nonprofit and he is looking for tips and advice on how to get such an organization going.

"I'm reaching out to people about that, a 401c3," he said. The objective in this venture would be "cans for vets," in which recyclable donations



Dogs are an important part of Randy Lebeau's life, but so too are his growing interests in making his mark in the business world with Charlton Laundromat and companion ventures.

Continued on page 2

Chief Shaw named grand marshal for Memorial Day Parade

By Don Wayman

The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council has named Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw as grand marshal of this year's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30.

The Webster Board of Selectmen appointed Michael Shaw to head the Webster Police Department in 2019. The new chief had been with the department in many capacities since 1997. The unanimous vote of confidence he received from the BOS was well-deserved. Chief Shaw is a true believer in the department's mission: Honor-Courage-Commitment.

Following up on the BOS's endorsement of Mr. Shaw, the Memorial Day Parade Committee chose him to lead the parade through the streets of Webster and Dudley, our twin towns.

Mike's early years were spent in several Northern Worcester County towns before settling in Shrewsbury.



He attended St. John's High School, graduating in 1990. "Shawsy," as he was called, played a little baseball but worked full-time at his "part-time job" at the Big D market. He attended Fitchburg State College with plans on becoming a teacher before transferring to Anna Maria College, where he received his Master's degree in Criminal Justice and Safety.

Shawsy became Pvt. Michael Shaw upon his enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He was indoctrinated at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Upon completion of boot camp, Mike reported to the Camp Edwards facility, which was built to simulate a Middle Eastern town. He was assigned to Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Regiment, 4th Marine Division. The raw recruit became very

Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw has been named grand marshal for this year's Memorial Day Parade, on May 30th.

familiar with close-order drill on the parade grounds, and the proper use of the heavy machine gun. Seventy-four months later he was discharged with the rank of platoon sergeant. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Expert Rifle Badge.

Soon after Mike concluded his six-year commitment to his country and the Marine Corps (and still a young man), he became the new cop working the beat in town. A proficient patrolman, he became sergeant in 2006, and advanced to deputy chief eleven years later. Today, he is Swat Team control chief and has led Webster's thirty three-member Police Department since his appointment in 2019.

He is also a firearms instructor and fitness trainer.

Chief Shaw sees Webster as a small New England town enjoying an improved quality of life, with enhanced public safety. A town where there is a minimum of fear of crimes, and there

are safeguards in place to protect lives and property.

Chief Shaw is active in supporting public programs, including International Night-Out, the Easter Egg Hunt and basketball leagues for kids. More recently the department sponsored Duck-Off, Polar Plunge and Touch a Truck events. Under the chief's direction the department has added a part-time community outreach advocate to provide assistance to townspeople in need.

With the addition of quality lawmen, an emphasis on public relations, a clear understanding of juvenile misbehavior and a role model like Chief Shaw, Webster's Police Department will meet the challenges of law enforcement as they exist today.

The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council is proud to have Chief Shaw assume the duties of grand marshal as we observe this Memorial Day of remembrance and reflection.

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CHARLTON LAUNDROMAT

Continued from page 1

would be used to help veterans afford the costs of visiting his laundromat.

"I already get vets and first responders, police and firefighters, in here, to do laundry. I'd like to be able to provide them with washes and dries. I'm hoping to engage other businesses in making this happen."

Although he has left the Marine Corps, the Corps "never leaves you," he says, and he is putting what he learned in the military into improving Charlton Laundromat with such initiatives as drop off and pick up the same day, wash-your-clothes-Wednesdays and reminders that wash, dry and fold can be "a tax write-off for businesses."

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

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 ground-breaking 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



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/>.

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The Yankee Xpress

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

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

things as Uxbridge raising property taxes 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?"
"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."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com.



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 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

weatherman's forecast is off the mark, "how would you like to make six figures and be wrong half the time?"

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

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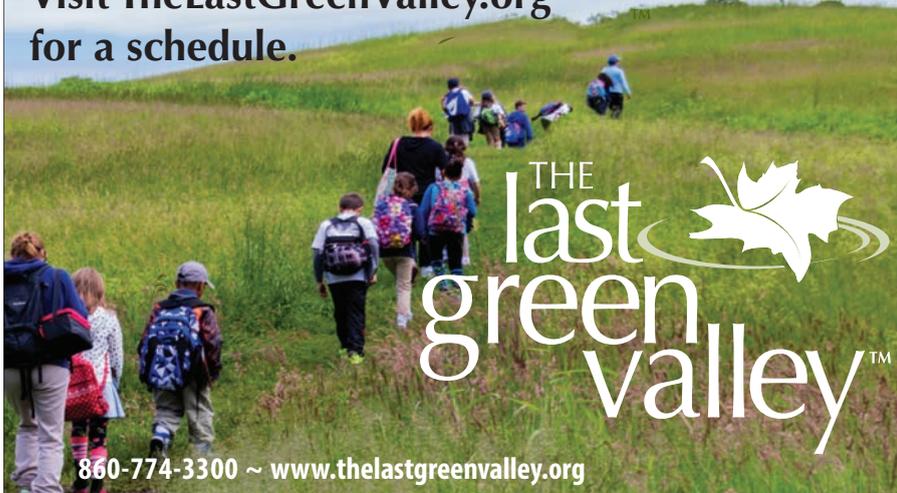
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All Saints Academy students visit Samuel Slater Experience

Students in Grades 6-8 at All Saints Academy in Webster visited Samuel Slater Experi-

ence on April 28.

Students and their teachers toured the museum, receiving

expert and detailed information about Samuel Slater, the father of the American Industrial Revolution. They learned about his life and how and why he came to Webster.

Guides who shared their knowledge included Trish Stuart, Christine Watkins, Neelu Sharma and Program Coordinator Reanna Kuzdzal.

Samuel Slater Experience, Ray St., Webster, is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and by appointment for groups every other day.

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Oxford HS, Grafton HS celebrate return of Best Buddies prom



After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, Oxford High School and Grafton High School were able to join together once again for the annual Best Buddies prom on Friday, April 29.

The two schools alternate hosting the prom and this year's event was held at Oxford High School.

Students are paired with a "buddy" from the special education program and they meet for one-on-one activities throughout the year.

Once again, it was a complete success and everyone danced the night away.

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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.



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

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

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

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.



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

"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 printing 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.

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.

Continued on page 9



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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



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

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 tight, 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.

Who qualifies as a U.S. military veteran?

One of the questions that is asked most frequently by those who were in the National Guard or in the active military is: are they eligible for benefits such as the GI Bill, veteran license plates, membership in military organizations, etc. Here is an explanation of what entitles a person to be identified as a veteran.

Who qualifies as a U.S. military veteran?

Over the years I've heard many opinions of what people think a U.S. military veteran is. I will explain from a VA Accredited veterans service officer (VSO) perspective.

Under U.S. federal law, a veteran is any person who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. Discharges marked "general and under honorable conditions" also qualify. Other qualifying events are any person who served in the active military, naval or air service of the United States and was discharged from the service due to a service-connected disability or who filed a claim and was service-connected for a disability sustained while in the service.

For example, a person could go into the service and injury themselves while in basic training and receive a service-connected disability rating from the VA. They would be considered a veteran no matter how long they served.

Certain veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army identified as scouts who served between December 7, 1941 and January 1, 1947, are considered veterans of the United States. Members of the National Guard and Reserves may be considered veterans if they were deployed under Title 10 (federal orders) and complete that deployment and are issued a DD-214 (discharge) under honorable conditions.

People who just serve in the National Guard and Reserve without a federal deployment are not eligible for veterans benefits, unless they were injured during their basic or advanced training or while on weekend drill or the two-week summer training. They must have reported the injury, filed

a claim with the VA, and been rated as disabled for that injury.

Other types of people considered to be veterans are those who served as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Science Services Administration or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor the Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey. These individuals would have a document similar to a DD-214 as proof of this service.

Eligibility for veterans benefits also depends on the character of the discharge. There is honorable, general under honorable conditions, other than honorable, bad conduct and dishonorable. Normally only honorable and general under honorable conditions will qualify the veteran for benefits.

Officers cannot receive a dishonorable discharge. If they are demoted in rank at a court martial, they are given an officer's discharge. There is also an entry-level separation given usually within the first 180 days for medical or other reasons. Most times the person is not considered a veteran.

There is also a process to apply to have the discharge upgraded. This process should take place within three years of discharge, and the veteran should have a rationale for claiming the discharge should have been honorable. The services have in the past rated people with personality disorders that were found later to be posttraumatic stress disorder. This usually occurred after the service member returned from a combat tour and had trouble dealing with the authority back in the home unit. Service members who have had this experience should contact our office and let our VSO look into the matter.

Stephen P. Rogerson, author of this article, is director of veterans' service in the town of Dudley. He can be reached at 508-949-8010.

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 JULY 8 • 7PM	 JULY 9 • 1PM	 JULY 17 • 1PM
 JULY 23 • 1PM	 JULY 24 • 1PM	 JULY 30 • 12PM
 JULY 31 • 1PM	 AUGUST 5 • 7:30PM	 AUGUST 6 • 1PM
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- COUNTRYFEST SEPTEMBER 11 • 12PM
- JAMEY JOHNSON OCTOBER 8 • 1PM

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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*



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.

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 An-

niversary 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

saster 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.

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



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.

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 opensky.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 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 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 Single-tary 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 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 Betsey 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



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

guitars...everything that made The Eagles so cool," he says.

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.indianranch.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 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.

dandfarm.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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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.

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 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,

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 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

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 innocence 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



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,

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

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

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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, Raynham, 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 officers 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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Charlton Lions hold membership drive

The Charlton Lions Club is holding a Membership Drive with an informational reception on Wednesday, May 25, 7-9 p.m. at the Overlook Great Room, Masonic Home, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton.

Join Charlton's most respected community secular service organization for an evening of wine, cheese and friendship while learning about the important work club members do to serve our community. You'll even get a short lesson on the sport of curling

to kick off your introduction to how becoming part of the Charlton Lions Club can warm the soul, lift the spirit and bring you joy as you help others in our town.

Looking for something fun? We are known to serve up some fine chili, sausage grinders at Old Home day and kick up some dance fever to oldie tunes while raising funds for important causes.

The Charlton Lions Club is committed to providing the citizens of Charlton with help on issues such as sight, hear-

ing and health needs, scholarships, handicap ramps, disaster relief, and gift cards to help bring joy to families in need at Christmas. Where there is a request, the Lions respond.

Charlton Lions are a part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization. 100% of money raised is donated to charitable causes with a majority right in our own town. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened communities through humanitarian projects. Have a positive impact on the lives of others

and experience the feeling of service.

For more information about membership or service, or to make a donation please reach out to any member at thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

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



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>

Tank Demo Weekend is happening May 21 and 22 at AHM



The American Heritage Museum in Hudson is hosting a WWII Tank Demonstration Weekend on May 21st and 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The AHM's tanks including the M4 Sherman and M24 Chaffee and other rare military vehicles will be operating in a special historical exhibition. These and the rare M26A1 Pershing, M22 Locust and M18 Hellcat tanks will be on display. WWII veterans who served with these tanks will be participating in this living history event.

All three museums — the AHM, the Historic Aviation Hangar and Classic Automobile Barn — will be open.

Tank driving experiences and tank rides will also be taking place over the weekend.

Register online at www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

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Chief's corner

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

With a college in town, we often deal with instances where individuals possess false identifications. Most common use is to purchase alcohol and / or enter establishments limited to those over age 21. With the advances in computer technology, there are some high-quality fake ID's being produced. Their use is a concern for public safety as well as the businesses who sell alcoholic beverages. I was asked to provide some information on false identifications.

Modern technology, primarily via internet, allows many people to obtain these cards. Their illegal use can impact the user, the public, and the establishments. Businesses can face serious sanctions, including the suspension of their liquor licenses, if they serve alcohol to minors. Several sections in the law cover falsified identifications. The most serious falls under MGL Chapter 90 Section 24B. This prohibits altering or falsifying several registry documents, including licenses and state issued identification cards. A violation of this law is a felony, carrying a maximum

of a state prison term and a one-year license suspension. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138 Section 34B is the law which outlines identification for alcohol purchases. This applies to anyone who alters, defaces, uses, transfers, etc. a false identification. Anyone found with one of these items can face a jail term for at least three months and a suspension of their driver's license for at least six months.

Chapter 138 Section 34B lists acceptable forms of identification for employees and people having control of liquor establishments to rely upon. They are a Massachusetts Driver's License, Massachusetts Registry issued Liquor Identification Card, a passport issued by the US or country recognized by the US, and/or a valid US Military Identification. Any other forms of identification (example out of state driver's license) are to be taken by licensees, agents, or employees at their own risk. Should there be a violation for service to a minor, only these four types will provide a valid defense for the proprietor of the establishment.

The goal of the law is to in-

sure underage people are not served alcoholic beverages. It can be challenging in our area, with a college and proximity to Connecticut and Rhode Island. People from out of the area may be here purchasing these items. Businesses are trying to do the right thing and verify the age of customers. They can face legal trouble for violations. For the establishments, the best rule to live by is when in doubt, do not serve. It is better to be cautious and lose a sale, rather than losing a liquor license for a period. The false ID users also face some significant penalties. If you are of age and get "carded," take it as a compliment. The people asking are only doing their jobs to keep alcohol from minors and protect their livelihood.

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.

Dudley 'Take Back' prescription drug program a success

By Steve Wojnar
Chief of Police,
Town of Dudley

On Saturday, April 30th, the Dudley Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted another prescription drug "Take Back" event.

For the 18th time in Dudley, the public had the chance to provide for safe disposal of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

The service was free and anonymous.

This was a well-attended event.

More than thirty-five people dropped off a large quantity of expired medications. A total of four boxes was turned in for disposal.

Thanks also to Harrington Hospital for providing needle bins for disposal of sharpies, and for arranging for volunteers on site to provide medical information to residents.

It was another successful event.

The Dudley Police Department encourages everyone to take advantage of these programs in the future. The next one is tentatively planned for the fall of 2022.

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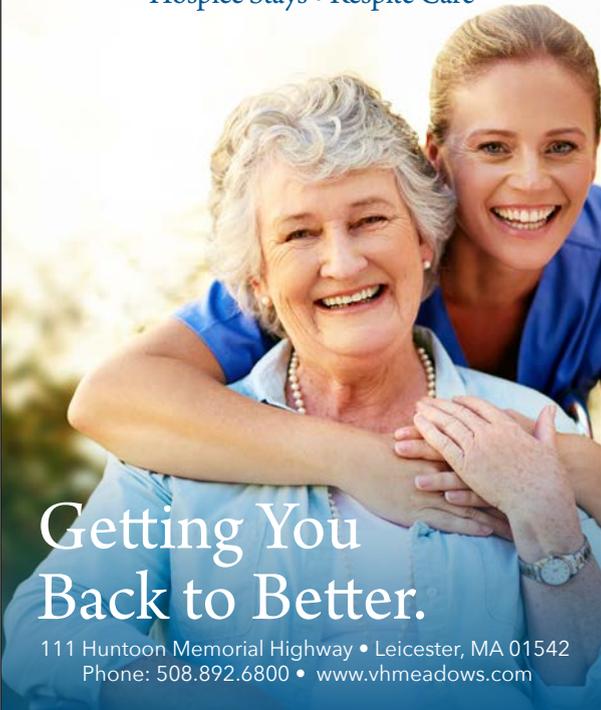
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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

Be a good money manager in retirement

By Dennis Antonopoulos

If you reach retirement with a significant amount of assets, you've done a great job of saving and investing. But now comes another challenge—making that money last.

You might think that this task, as important as it is, won't be as hard as accumulating the

money in the first place. Yet, a sizeable number of people have reached a different conclusion. In fact, 36% of retirees say managing money in retirement is more confusing than saving for retirement, and 56% say they wish they had budgeted for more unexpected expenses in retirement, according to the Edward

Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study.

What steps can you take to help you become an effective money manager during your retirement years? Here are a few to consider:

- **Set your goals.** Your money management needs will certainly depend, to some extent, on what your goals are for the coming years. Will you travel extensively? Stay close to home and pursue your hobbies? Or maybe even open a small business? Once you identify your vision for retirement, you can estimate how much it will cost, which will then dictate much of your spending and saving needs.

- **Stick to a budget.** If you've followed a budget throughout your working years, there's no reason to stop now—in fact, budgeting may be even more essential when you retire. Of course, you don't necessarily want to force yourself to be as frugal as possible. After all, you worked hard, saved and invested so you can enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Look for reasonable cost-cutting opportunities, such as eating out less often or elimi-

nating streaming services you don't use.

- **Don't underestimate health-care costs.** Even when you're on Medicare and pay for supplemental insurance, health-care costs could still be one of your biggest expenses during retirement. Initially, budgeting for \$4,500 to \$6,500 per person annually may be a good starting point for traditional health care expenses in retirement. However, depending on your health, prescription drug usage and other factors, your costs could be higher or lower. And you may also want to estimate long-term care expenses as part of your plan.

- **Look for senior discounts.** Once you're a senior, you may be able to find discounts on a wide range of items and activities, such as movies, transportation, groceries, gym memberships and more. By taking advantage of these discounts, you can save a surprising amount of money and ease pressure on your cash flow.

- **Establish a sustainable withdrawal strategy.** For decades, you've been putting mon-

ey into your IRA and 401(k). But once you're retired, you will likely need to start taking withdrawals from these accounts. It's essential that you don't withdraw so much early in your retirement that you eventually run the risk of outliving your money. You may want to work with a financial professional, who can analyze your entire situation—assets, expenses, lifestyle, expected longevity, etc.—and recommend a sustainable withdrawal rate. Keep in mind that once you turn 72, you may be required to take out a certain amount each year from your 401(k) and your traditional IRA, so you'll want to incorporate these withdrawals into your overall income strategy.

Do whatever it takes to become a good money manager during retirement. You'll find that it's well worth the effort.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor, at 5 Albert Street, Auburn MA 01501 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com
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Dennis Antonopoulos
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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

The dream of homeownership is worth the wait

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 contrib-

utes 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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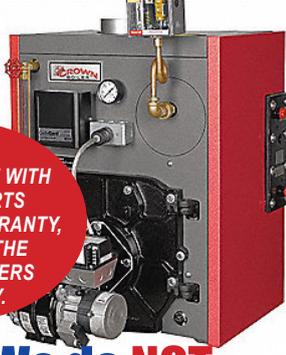
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