

Oxford Business Association, Troop 147 team up on gateway park

By Rod Lee

Curious motorists must have wondered what kind of activity was brewing as they entered Oxford Center along Sutton St. the morning of June 4th.

Oxford Business Association and an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 147. Together, the OBA and Troop 147 are turning the long-vacant parcel into a "gateway park" for the town of Oxford. "It's my Eagle Scout project," Mat-

"This was kind of a void space since Valley Green left," Matthew's mother, Debi Lomuscio-Rosebrooks, said. "They distributed fertilizer. Ron Rheault asked us to help. This park is going to serve as a welcome to Oxford."



Ron Rheault is a fixture with both the Oxford Business Association and Troop 147. Donations to the OBA in support of its work improving the town as a place to live and work are welcome; send these to Oxford Business Association, Box 65, Oxford MA 01540.

Gathered on a narrow but deep lot on the north side of the street just east of the traffic light at the main intersection in town was a small contingent of worker bees, one of whom—Ron Rheault, retired from Rheault Construction—was using a bobcat to grade off the parcel.

Mr. Rheault is vice president of the

threw Rosebooks, 17, said. A high school student, Matthew was excited about plantings, including shrubs and dogwood and crabapple trees, which will provide the site with "year-round color." Plans also call for a walkway, benches, a gazebo and "maybe a share garden," he said.

Often operating without much fanfare, the Oxford Business Association with longtime businesspersons like Larry Crowley, Dan Prouty and Ron Rheault at the helm, has periodically stepped forward to take on community-

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Members of the Volpe family, Eugene, Sam, Joe and Hannah, emerge from the Dudley Grange Hall with the prized treat hundreds of people came for during Dudley Grange #163's annual Strawberry Festival on June 16th.

Strawberry fields forever, indeed, in the town of Dudley

By Rod Lee

As signs placed at conspicuous locations around town attest, a Strawberry Festival hosted by Dudley Grange #163 happens "the third Thursday every June."

Which means that on the afternoon and evening of June 16, 2022, all roads literally led to Center Road near its intersection with Dudley Hill Road and in the general proximity of Nichols College and the Dudley Hill Golf Club.

A fixture in the town of Dudley for

more than sixty years, the Strawberry Festival is not just about the season's most popular fruit. The event traditionally includes such components as a frog-jumping contest, live music, face painting, a Dudley Fire Department smoke house, vintage automobiles, a dunk tank, and the Black Tavern antiques and collectibles sale.

It runs from about four o'clock "until all of the berries are gone," as Dudley Grange #163 representatives put it.

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STRAWBERRY FEST

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The Strawberry Festival returned this June after a two-year hiatus, first because of Covid and then per order of the governor in 2021. “We did a music series instead, last year, and we are doing that again this year, in July and August,” Karen Gillon, co-chair of the Strawberry Festival with her husband Ken, said, the morning after the event.

“We come very summer,” Joe Volpe of Webster said, speaking of members of his family who had joined hundreds in attendance for this year’s version of the Strawberry Festival. Vehicles were parked wherever their operators could find space for blocks in all directions. At six o’clock the line for tickets was still long, while people who had already made an appearance could be seen walking along Center Road with cardboard trays filled with containers of strawberry shortcake.

“We hulled sixteen hundred pounds of strawberries on Wednesday,” Ms. Gillon said on Friday, June 17th. “We get the strawberries from Big Bunny



Part of the throng that gathered for Dudley Grange #163’s Strawberry Festival.

in Southbridge. The strawberries are from California. This year eighteen Nichols College kids helped with the hulling. They were having a contest to see who could hull berries the fastest. They were wonderful.”

“The biscuits also come from Big Bunny. We do our own whipped cream, hand-whipped

with machines, and we haven’t burned the motors of the machines out yet.”

Speaking of contests, Ms. Gillon said her own children took part in the frog-jumping contest “back in the day. “Kids bring their own frogs and all we ask is that they return them to where they got them. Ray

Sullivan, a Dudley resident, is our go-to guy. He runs the frog-jumping contest. We give trophies to the winners. My husband started a ‘be kind to the frogs’ initiative several years ago. The kids love the contest.”

Ms. Gillon said support for the Strawberry Festival comes from all quarters of the community. Dudley selectmen waive permits so people can park on the street. The Dudley Fire Department and Dudley Police Department play active roles. Nichols College assists with the parking. Grange members and volunteers shoulder much of the burden in staging a production



Linda Brink, with Gerry Frank, prepares to welcome patrons to a vendor table at the Strawberry Festival. Proceeds benefit scholarships the Grange awards. Ms. Brink is secretary of Dudley Grange #163.

that takes a lot of preparatory work. National Honor Society students from Shepherd Hill High School, “without them, I don’t know how we would do this,” she said.

Proceeds from the Strawberry Festival support “one, two or three scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools,” she said.

“I can’t believe we pull this

off with the crew we have and volunteers,” Ms. Gillon said. The result is strong allegiance from residents of Dudley and nearby towns. “It’s generational,” she said. “It’s a huge undertaking.”

But well worth the effort.

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GATEWAY PARK

Continued from page 1

betterment initiatives. “A good place to do business” signage around town, previous upkeep of the bandstand on the Town Common and a World War II commemorative book are indicative of the way the OBA has gotten involved, over the years.

A rail-trail project the OBA will be tackling in collaboration with the Oxford Conservation Commission is on the docket, Mr. Prouty and Mr. Rheault said.

Another book, dedicated to Korea and Vietnam-era veterans, was “60% done, then Covid hit,” Mr. Prouty said.

Many people are unaware of just how involved in civic life the OBA is, Mr. Prouty, who grew up in Oxford, said. “We have our meetings, we do a lot of stuff. Guys bring food to our office and we take it to the food bank.”

The Oxford Business Association is always looking for new members to bolster its ranks, which have aged.

“A few years ago I was the young guy in the group,” Mr. Prouty said. “Fifteen years ago we had one hundred forty or more members. Now it’s fifty to sixty.”

The Oxford Business Association relies on relationships it develops with local enterprises



Troop 147’s Matthew Rosebrooks is helping spearhead creation of a gateway park in Oxford as his Eagle Scout project.

to take on and complete projects like the gateway park, the design for which was drawn up by Scott Baker of Charlton. “Wilson’s (Wilson Language Training Corp.) is one of these partners. Robbins Garden Center is another, and IPG. Pine Sand & Grave and Lapierre Fence too.

“Robbins is often wonderful with us,” Ms. Lomuscio-Rosebrooks said, on site on June 4th.

Talking about what had been accomplished two days later, Mr. Rheault said “everything is planted, it looks good.”

All for the betterment of Oxford, Mr. Prouty said.

“For so many years this town thought it was Rodney Dangerfield,” he said.

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

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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

Small-town medicine show

Ignore the warnings presented as advertisements in the newspaper and on television at your own peril. This was the message conveyed the weekend before Memorial Day, as



seven yards of red cedar mulch that had been delivered by Chamberlain Construction of Douglas lay like a cone-shaped sand hill in the driveway—waiting to be spread.

For years there had been the cautionary messages, including the ones flashing across the TV screen that depicted a man, bare from the waist up, whose back is covered in nasty, festering welts; accompanying this image, symbolic bolts of lightning, as further evidence that shingles and all of the pain that comes with it is not to be taken lightly.

So began an ordeal that had loomed as a threat since childhood, and an outbreak of chicken pox.

Day One (May 21)

The front flower bed, facing the street, was mulched within an hour or so, the bright wood chips lying in perfect complement to the leafy lamb's ear and azalea bushes and iris and rhododendron and lu-

pine that were just starting to bloom. Mary Trotter, a neighbor, driving by, stopped to say "looking good" and to point out that she appreciated the restaurant column in the Xpress newspapers for having given a battered industry the attention it deserved as it fights back from the ravages of the pandemic. Early afternoon arrives. The first twinges of pain on the left side of the head.

Day Two (May 22)

A trip to Urgent Care and a visit with Dr. Scheinfein, who after examining my ears for wax buildup (which I am prone to) and the scalp at the top of my head ("I'm jealous that you have hair") declares "I believe this is shingles. I am going to prescribe an anti-viral drug, Valacyclovir. Take one tablet three times a day for seven days." The pain sharpens. I manage to read the Sunday papers, nap in the recliner, and watch the final round of the PGA championship. I reach for the bottle of Excedrin Migraine tablets.

Day Three (May 23)

The mulch sits. It can wait. The stabs are coming more frequently. The Excedrin with Valacyclovir is not touching them. In the recliner, I can see my left foot jump every time a stab strikes. I call Northbridge Primary Care. Our PCP, Dr. Anderson, has no openings but I can see the nurse practitioner. I am convinced the problem stems from wax buildup in the left ear. I asked

for the ear to be flushed and Tess Green willingly complies. She flushes the right ear too for good measure. But her verdict is the same as Dr. Scheinfein's: shingles, which, she explains, can be caused by the massive headache I am experiencing. She puts me on a combination of Tylenol and Ibuprofen and says "keep taking the anti-viral med too."

Day Four (May 24)

I discuss my situation with Tess, on the telephone. I tell her I had to force myself to sleep through the pain and that as soon as four hours or so pass the pain returns, every bit as severe as before. She expresses concern and says it will take some time for the mixture of two Tylenol tablets and three Ibuprofen to work their magic. "Let me know how you are doing," she says. "If things don't get better in a day or so, I will put you on a steroid."

Day Five (May 25)

I want to avoid the ER in Milford at all costs. Milford Regional is a great hospital but a man I know mentioned that he had taken his wife there for a shoulder issue at 10:00 p.m. and they didn't leave for home until 6:00 the next morning. I stick to the regimen and do virtually nothing. Late in the afternoon, still in discomfort, I call for Tess and the woman at the desk takes my message.

Day Six (May 26)

In the morning, a nurse calls to pass along word from Tess. "Tess is prescribing Predni-

sone. Take that in the morning with food. It may cause sleep restlessness. Follow the instructions on the container, you have to taper the dosages day-to-day. Keep taking the combination of Tylenol and Ibuprofen. You can keep taking the anti-viral pill too."

Day Seven (May 27)

I wake to twinges at 5:00 a.m., get up, toast and butter some bread, take the Prednisone with a large glass of water and then the Tylenol and Ibuprofen with another large glass of water. "From virtually no pills at my age I have become a pill popper," I say.

I go back to bed, waiting for the medicine to kick in.

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Oxford Farms ... rich soil ... lofty ambitions

By Rod Lee

Theresa Cohen's family purchased one hundred thirty acres of rich agricultural land high atop Federal Hill Road in Oxford in 2015. In the seven years since, she has already transformed Oxford Farms into a place residents of the area can turn to for fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers and meats.

"I bought this property from Bigelow, the nursery people," Ms. Cohen said in her office on the grounds on the morning of May 31st. "It is protected farm land. There were no

structures. I put in a post-and-beam barn, a storage shed, there are greenhouses, outdoor gardens, and a flower and herb garden. We are farming roughly one acre of the land, half of which is forest, half of which is open."

An environmental engineer by trade, Ms. Cohen has maintained a steady focus on what she wants to do with Oxford Farms. She has designated about one-third of an acre to "no-till" farming (non-certified organic) and will be utilizing the greenhouses to plant year-round. The beef, lamb and chicken she sells are produced

by "100 percent grass-fed" livestock, "no antibiotics or dewormers."

Her chickens are pasture-raised.

"We are all about clean food, healthy food and a respect for nature," she says. She relies on "the expertise of my livestock manager and garden manager" to realize her vision for Oxford Farms.

Ms. Cohen's plan might not have been to become a farmer. But, she says, "my kids had health issues so I got involved with alternative health. My husband and I started a recycling business and he runs that."

Apparently she has only just begun. Oxford Farms' store hours are Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Fridays from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m., or by appointment. A seasonal operation, Oxford Farms is open from June through October 31st. The farm hosted a Harvest Fair in November and a spring fair. Music festivals may be coming. There is a pick-your-own ingredient, for strawberries, for instance—for "your total farm experience."

A cornerstone of the venture is the "shares" component: vegetable, fruit and flower shares, small meat shares and family meat shares.

"We don't box you in!" she says in her promotional literature for the fresh vegetable shares. "Our shares allow you to choose what vegetables you get. Your vegetables will be picked shortly before you buy them, fully vine-ripened and ready to eat to insure best flavor and highest nutrition. We are not certified organic but we



Above, Theresa Cohen, owner of Oxford Farms, second from left, with Amelia Kellner, Corey Foster and Evan Lussier.

Below, a view of Oxford Farms' post-and-beam barn from the entrance to the property on Federal Hill Road in Oxford.



follow organic practices—no chemical pesticides, herbicides

or fertilizers. We build soil health using natural sources of fertility such as compost, feather meal, fish meal and alfalfa meal, natural mulches and mineral amendments based upon soil testing."

Oxford Farms offers delivery "and we sell to restaurants," Ms. Cohen said. "Dead Horse Hill, Isadore's Organics, the Worcester food hub."

Another goal she has in mind is growing the farmstead's retail aspect, "bread, eggs and dairy."

Ms. Cohen is proving to be

a capable steward of the land. The previous owner "planted trees for their nursery." Her objective is much larger in scope.

"The purpose behind this farm is to interact with people," she says.

Of the success she and her approximately eight employees have realized so far, she says "you help yourself a lot if you start with a good asset."

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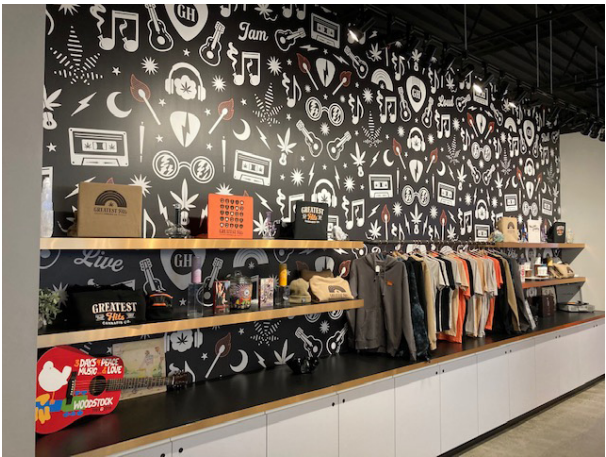
By Rod Lee

It comes as no surprise to Joe Villatico, chief executive officer of Greatest Hits Cannabis Co., that the marijuana industry has exploded since retail sales of the product in Massachusetts began in 2018.

The state recently topped \$3 billion in revenue realized from purchases of marijuana for recreational and medical

ian Grill—on the Auburn/Oxford town line, is at the forefront of a business that is growing seemingly faster even than the plants that sustain its livelihood.

A father of two, Mr. Villatico left restaurant work at the age of fifteen “to become a serial entrepreneur,” he said in a small conference room in the Greatest Hits building on Chase St. in Dudley on June 2nd. After partnering with



Above, some of the merchandise that is available for purchase at Greatest Hits.

Right, “It takes a great team,” Joe Villatico, CEO of Greatest Hits Cannabis Co., says. Here he is pictured with some of the company’s retail-store staff.

Below, the “DJ booth,” situated in one corner of the Greatest Hits Cannabis Co.’s home base on Chase Ave. in Dudley.



use, according to the Cannabis Control Commission. Dozens of licenses have been granted by the CCC from one end of the Bay State to the other.

Mr. Villatico, the son of Arnie Villatico of Periwinkle’s Restaurant celebrity, and the brother of Jason Villatico, who now operates its successor—J. Anthony’s Ital-

Robert Jordan, founder of Native Roots, on the startup of a cannabis company in Colorado, “my attorney said ‘maybe there’s an opportunity for you in Massachusetts.’ I came home in 2019 and put eyes on the premises”—the old Ethan Allen mill.

The success of Native Roots, which rapidly grew to more than twenty dispensa-



ries, fed Mr. Villatico’s desire to replicate that achievement in Massachusetts.

Greatest Hits has “three locations, Dudley, Lynn and Taunton,” he said. “We have about forty employees and will grow to two hundred fifty to three hundred. We are starting cultivation (in a wing of the mill) July 1st.”

Greatest Hits will celebrate a grand opening on Friday, June 24th and Saturday, June 25th, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. both days.

The public is embracing the store, which sells only marijuana for recreational use (not medical).

“I think the response has been amazing,” he said. “A good amount of our dollars will go back to the community. To take an old mill that was used for storage and turn it into this, giving back to the community is a very big thing. Cannabis is the vehicle in 2022; this is the new yesterday.”

A onetime dirt biking enthusiast who enjoys the fast-paced nature of the cannabis industry, Joe Villatico points to the “\$52 million we raised” as a positive indicator that the venture will prosper. Another reason for optimism, he said, is “Massachusetts has done a good job limiting licenses. A lot of it has to do with experience, like the kind my partner has. We went through roughly a year of approvals to get our Community Host Agreement. The CCC (Cannabis Control

Commission) is highly involved. You have to take the right precautions. We have one of the best compliance rates and Lucas Baier, our VP of retail, he is phenomenal.”

The lobby of the building on Chase Ave. is situated in direct proximity to the retail store. The lobby is simply appointed with a welcoming floor mat bearing the message “Let the Good Times Roll”—a nod to a music theme that is prevalent throughout. Mounted guitars and a black-and-white décor with a heavy emphasis on musical notes contributes to a warm atmosphere.

There is an even a “DJ station” in one corner of the retail store; yes, Willie Nelson is among those marijuana aficionados whose framed pictures are displayed there.

The retail store is a beehive of activity, with ample staff in place to handle transactions.

As expected, cannabis is booming in the Bay State, with cultivators, product manufacturers, retailers, independent testing labs, microbusinesses, couriers and others riding the wave.

Greatest Hits Cannabis Co. is off to a good start, in joining that mix.

Go to greatesthitscc.com for more information.

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

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Pizzeria Bruno: a touch of Italy close to home

By Rod Lee

First impressions created by the new Pizzeria Bruno in the southeast corner of Pleasant Valley Crossing in Sutton are entirely favorable, offering proof that “the boy can be taken out of Italy, but Italy not out of the boy.”

Talking about the venture on the afternoon of May 27th, Marcello Bruno, owner of Pizzeria Bruno with his brother David, said the restaurant is an extension of a family business in the Milan area of his native country that dates to the mid-1990s.

“We are trying do exactly what we did in the past, in Italy, same oven, same brand,” Mr. Bruno said. “We import flour, cheese, chips, soda, beer and wine from Italy. I live three minutes from here, it’s very nice. When we saw this location for the first time, we fell in love with it. Mike O’Brien (of Galaxy Development, developer of the plaza) is a good guy.”

Italia-themed throughout, Pizzeria Bruno features wood-fired, brick-oven pizza in a variety of combinations and flavors. There is red pizza (no cheese), classic pizza, gourmet pizza and white pizza, along with calzone, panini, piadina (flat bread), a butcher mix (plate of meat and cheese), salad, focaccia and dessert.

cia and dessert.

Pizza toppings include artichokes, arugula, broccoli rabe, capers, cherry tomato, eggplant, egg, French fries, hot dog, mozzarella, mushrooms, Kalamata olives, red onions, peppers, pesto, red sauce, sausage, smoked caciotta cheese,

vided at 508-917-8182.

“Delicious,” Beverly Ricciardona of Millbury, finishing lunch with her husband, said. “The music is good too.”

Already drawing steady patronage, Pizzeria Bruno joins such food and drink enterprises as Five Guys and Starbucks



Marcello Bruno of Pizzeria Bruno in Sutton, with his wife Ang and employee Kyle Conlin.

spinach, taleggio cheese, truffle sauce, zucchini and ricotta cheese. Brie cheese, gorgonzola cheese, grana cheese, bresaola, ham, hot soppressata, nduja, porcini mushrooms, prosciutto, shrimp, speck, tuna, meat sauce and buffalo-milk mozzarella are also available.

Telephone ordering is pro-

in an ever-expanding Pleasant Valley Crossing, which is anchored by a Market 32.

Contact Rod Lee with news for The Feisty Fork column at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

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WE ACCEPT MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS



Michelle Canning will perform at the Whittin Mill complex in Whitinsville on Thursday, July 28 as part of ValleyCast's summer concert series.

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 JUNE 30

• "Forget-me-not...An Artist's Healing Journey Through Flowers and Inspiration," by Cindy Smith, will be

on display for the entire month in the café gallery of Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, during regular business hours, Tues.-Sat., 10-5 and Wednesdays 10-6. A meet-the-artist reception will take place on Saturday, June 24 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Deb Horan at 508-949-6232 or deb@bookovers-gourmet.com.

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@southwickszoo.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.

Also upcoming at Indian Ranch:

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,



The Hip Swayers will deliver a dose of Americana at the Asa Waters Mansion in downtown Millbury on Saturday, July 30.

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.

tales about what draws a community together, the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

• Dan Gabel & The Abletones will present a summer concert at the Asa

Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.

• ValleyCast's 2022 summer concert series kicks off with back-to-back performances by Samuel Bowen, at 5:30 p.m., and the Blackstone Valley Com-

Continued on page 8

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

• A Narragansett Bay Lighthouse & Cruise Tour is being offered by the Millbury Senior Center. Cost is \$110 per person, all-inclusive, with departure at 9:30 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. A full-course luncheon is included. Call 508-865-9154 to sign up or for more information.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

• Tim VanEgmond will present an outdoor concert, featuring traditional and contemporary songs as well as

St. Roch's Annual

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Gardens and Art in the Country

Saturday, July 9, 2022 • 9am - 4pm

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Tickets:

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\$25 day of event
FREE for children under 12

Pre-order your tickets online at: www.quietcornergardenclub.com or send this order form with you payment to:

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Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Number of tickets: _____ **Amount enclosed:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Your ticket will be available at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, "Will Call" Table at 9 AM, Saturday, July 9, 2022)

The Quiet Corner Garden Club is a non-profit organization and proceeds from this event are used for scholarships and civic projects.

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Continued on page 9

Yard Sale: Sat June 25 and Sun June 26
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8 am to 1 pm
Household items,
pictures, small
furniture, books,
DVDs, tools, etc.



**YARD
SALE**

Americana singer to perform at Booklovers' Gourmet

Cameron Sutphin, an Americana singer and guitar player, will perform at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, on Saturday, July 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted at the door. CDs will be available for purchase.

In 2017, as a solo act, Mr. Sutphin released his Nashville-recorded CD "Heartbreak

Town."

He has shared the stage with many performing artists including Drew Kelly, Mark Manderville and Raianne Richards as well as Emily Ann Roberts, Season 9 runner-up on The Voice.

Mr. Sutphin plays original material and classic country and folk cover songs.



Continued from page 8

in free, no rain date. Visit douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

• Icons & Legends Concert, including a Maine Lobster Bake in York, is being presented by the Northbridge Senior Center. Cost is \$110 per person. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

• Enjoy a Far from Eden summer concert at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.

• ValleyCast presents the Country Wild Heart Band as part of its summer concert series, 6:00 p.m., Whitin Mill

9 Frederick St., Webster, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

• The Hip Swayers will perform a summer concert at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.



The music of Tom Petty will be showcased when the band Petty Larceny performs at Douglas Orchard & Farm on Saturday, July 30.

complex, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In the event of rain the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

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.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

• The New England Country Music Club will host a dance featuring The Farm Hands at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., live music 1:00-5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

THURSDAY, JULY 28

• ValleyCast presents Michelle Caning as part of its summer concert series, 6:00 p.m., Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In the event of rain the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

• Rockwell Valentine Jazz Trio performs at Andy's Neighborhood Center,

9 Frederick St., Webster, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

• Judy Saves the Day, a puppet show, will take place at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free admission.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

• Valley Cast presents the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestras Summer Wind, 6:00 p.m., Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In the event of rain the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

• Evan Wood Trio performs at Andy's Neighborhood Center, 9 Frederick St., Webster, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

• Taking it to the Streets: The Ultimate Doobie Brothers Tribute Show, will be performed in Plymouth, New Hampshire at the Flying Monkey Theatre—a trip offered by the Northbridge Senior Center. Show and a buffet lunch are included at a cost of \$110 per person. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

• ValleyCast presents Le'Mixx Band, 6:00 p.m., Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In the event of rain the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

• ValleyCast presents Grayson Ty, 6:00 p.m., Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In the event of rain the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

• Joe Cicero performs at Andy's Neighborhood Center, 9 Frederick St., Webster, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

• The Auburn Historical Society & Museum presents the first annual Parking Lot Craft Fair, 41 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. For more information or to reserve a spot contact Helen Poirier at auburnmuseum@verizon.net, or stop by the museum Tuesdays or Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Music Worcester brings Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens to Indian Ranch

Music Worcester presents Silkroad Ensemble featuring Grammy Award-winning musician and vocalist Rhiannon Giddens at Indian Ranch in Webster on Wednesday, July 27.

Tickets are on sale now at

award-winning compositions and arrangements and re-imagines them for today. Keeping an eye on the past, the Ensemble and Ms. Giddens will also perform new works that coalesce her worldview with the Ensem-

on under-recognized voices, genres and musical traditions. A MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient, she co-founded the Grammy Award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops, and has been nominated for six additional Grammys for her work as a soloist and collaborator. As a performer, composer and cross-cultural connector, she has helped to change the understanding of both American and world music. She has performed with the Ensemble many times, but this will be her first appearance since succeeding Yo-Yo Ma as artistic director.

"Music Worcester has been so fortunate to welcome the Silkroad Ensemble before, and some of its current and former



www.indianranch.com. Or call 1-800-514-ETIX (3849).

This is the Silkroad Ensemble's debut tour with Ms. Giddens since her appointment as artistic director in July of 2020. She will lead the Silkroad Ensemble in their latest collaboration, "Phoenix Rising."

A musical rebirth and celebration, Phoenix Rising takes a cross-section of Silkroad's

ble's collective experience during the pandemic. Three major new commissions by Silkroad artists Sandeep Das, Maeve Gilchrist and Kaoru Watanabe will be played. The program also includes new arrangements by Rhiannon Giddens, Colin Jacobsen, Edward Perez and Mazz Swift.

Ms. Giddens has pursued a lifelong quest of shining light

members individually over the years. As we think about what and whom we should be presenting coming out of the pandemic years, we could not be more excited to be bringing the Ensemble back this summer with its new director, Rhiannon Giddens," Adrien Finlay, Music Worcester's executive director, said.

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Living with Luke

Luke Valentino learns on the go; training tips and trips

By Amy LeClaire

I couldn't be happier with my new pup, Luke Valentino. He's playful, pugnacious and imperfectly perfect. In some ways he's a typical pup; testing his limits then dashing away from

Training happens all the time

Your dog may be able to sit on command for a reward and roll over (is there any benefit from the crazy trick?) or even

someone who has spent a lot of time studying the behavior of dogs. Since Luke is nearly four months old, and we're both still in one piece (and living in peace), I thought I'd shared my secrets. Luke Valentino has stolen my heart, along with a few too many sneakers.

much as he does the journey. In fact, often times he'll awaken to the sound of my parked car and sit up with bedhead, one ear flapped open. "Where'd we end up? Mind if I just relax here for a bit?" Luke is more "chill" than most puppies we've had. We often refer to him as Professor Luke, the puppy most likely to study the sound of spoons dropped into the dishwasher bin. "Hmm." He'll cock his head to the sound. "That is fascinating." His curiosity draws him closer to the edge of the door, where he pokes his nose at a fork then backs off. "Ouch."

Amid traveling training days, he's even met some of his readers at CVS. Perched like a teddy bear in a metal carriage, he once raised his chin over the edge to say hello. "Wait a minute. Is that Luke Valentino?"

"That's me!" Have you ever noticed how utterly happy puppies are (especially Golden Retrievers) to greet new people. He licks the hand of a loyal reader and smiles proudly. "Isn't this place incredible?" Since food is LOVE for Golden Retrievers (and most dogs), it serves as the ultimate motivator and training tool. "Good boy, Luke." I reward him for being positive. Lincoln taught me to wear rose-colored glasses and see the good in every situation. The legacy goes on. "Mommy is so proud of you, Luke." He gnaws at the fleshy part of my palm, testing me. "Luke Valentino." I lower my voice and he tests further, biting yet softening his grip. Puppies know more than you think.

Consistency matters

My husband and I have been on point, and on the same page in certain areas, though inferior in others. Luke is able to "stay at his own spot" while we eat with the patience of an English butler. We've battled out that back and forth labor of bringing him back to his spot for a reward amid countless instances during which he's snapped back to our feet. A meal eaten in peace is secondary to helping Luke learn that we don't eat at the same table (unless we're at an outdoor restaurant café of course). So I've weathered the begging storm during tired mornings and scored big. He's so masterful that he'll now assume his dining spot throughout the day, waiting for us to sit down and eat, just so he can show off good behavior while waiting for a reward. The triumph has become a Luke Valentino classic. We gush. "Look how intelligent Luke is! He really is a gifted puppy."

We've also consistently potty-trained Luke, taking him out after naps and, frequently, throughout play times. This has

been a process and has happened in gradual stages, with no perfection. Puppies drink a lot of water and pee a lot! It's important to watch the signals of your puppy and have patience. We've finally reached a stage where we can confidently trust him to "tell us" without staying on top of him. He'll casually sit at the front door to let us know he has to go out, even when we're engrossed in our own tasks.

Set limits so that you're both happy

Although cuddling in bed with an eight-week old puppy may have been tempting, the decision to give Luke his own cozy sleeping quarters was a good one. Luke now sleeps comfortably in his crate from 11 pm to 8 am. He woke us up throughout the night during the first week home, then stretched his sleep time, finally, to 6 am. We realized he was getting up too early, and only to eat. He would play a bit; then want to sleep all morning. Why not just sleep later? Instead of rushing downstairs to his first whimper, at about 12 weeks, we decided to ignore him and see if he'd fall back to sleep. Our plan worked like a charm! Now we're all fully rested and ready for the day's adventures! The impor-



A travel day at TJ Maxx, Auburn

tant thing is to help your pup to conform to the unique schedule that works for your household. How is Luke Valentino faring with off-the-couch behavior? B- The low mark is ours to own. We've wavered. We've wobbled. We've been worn down by Luke's cuteness and manipulation. We have not consistently shown him (as we had Lincoln) that his bed in the family room is far more fun

than the leather couch. "No one talks during my movie" is a lost cause when it comes to training your dog. Luke needs to know that we're willing to wrestle, romp, redirect him to his toys and teach him to play at his own spot every single time. Luke needs to know that sometimes adults need to sit. the suede pillows are about to pay a price. He thrashes them around with the aggression of a wolf. We struggle to discipline a pup that's taken a turn for the worst. He lifts his gums to reveal a rebellious set of jagged puppy teeth. My husband, also a male, takes the domineering tactic personal. "I'm not letting him boss us around this way!" I nod my head in dismay. We've been inconsistent with this aspect of Luke Valentino's training. Puppies can't figure out what to do with their own tails, never mind every do & don't of domestic life. Still; neither of us could have predicted what was to come, and how dark things were about to get on that infamous leather couch.

"Oh gosh. Oh no." I left him on the floor beside the couch for two minutes one time. I didn't leave food or any choking hazards behind, only a risk I hadn't expected. I had planned to start writing this very column, and left my laptop screen flapped open, ready for words. A curious Luke, ready to chew, found the corner of the screen and dug his jagged choppers in to reveal a haunting sight. The screen, black as night, exposed the spread of a spider web, then a lightning bolt design which drew my index finger in, as though somehow I could zap an electrocuted system back to life. In shock, I touched the screen over and over again but the crack, now iridescent, had made its mark. Luke Valentino, a puppy learning his boundaries, had destroyed my Mac's screen.

Stories and documents and pictures sailed through my

Continued on page 13



Luke visits Wells State Park, Sturbridge

me, a dirty sock in his mouth. In others, he's as unique as his full name. "Thank you for being such a good boy, Luke." I kiss his nose and snout, traces of puppy breath still evident, even though he's almost too big to be held.

"Love you back, Mama." His body is pressed against my chest, causing his hind legs to open like a frog's while his paws rest on my shoulders. He licks my full chin and face as though cleaning dribbles of ice cream from a cone. I can't help but giggle to my puppy's innocence and honesty. His appreciation for me, I realize, falls somewhere between loving me for me, and the flavor of my facial cream.

"You're the best puppy." Either way, I cherish moments that are short-lived. Luke Valentino already weighs a healthy 28 pounds and picking him up is getting harder and harder. Whether his behavior is typical or atypical, one aspect has remained constant with the numerous dogs that I've owned. Training a dog takes a lot of time and work, but the rewards of putting forth the effort make a significant difference in living happily ever after (or not) with your pooch. I'm not a professional trainer; simply

hand you his paw in the kitchen, but what about when the spontaneity of life gets in the way? What if your dog is accustomed, exclusively, to being trained in isolation and, consequently, freaks out in public? What if a quirky terrier catches her eye in the ice cream parlor line, and she snakes through your legs to drool over the poor dog? Or what if you need to host a party and your hungry pooch causes a guest to trip while counter surfing?

It might be time to train.

Travel with your dog

Dogs need to learn how to behave in human situations, especially if they are to live with one. Traveling with your pet offers hands-on opportunity to train on the go, on the fly, and on the scene. The more time you spend with your dog, the more training opportunities naturally arise. Luke rides in the backseat, seated comfortably in a travel crate lined with a plush mattress and chew toys. The sides of the crate have netted windows so that he's enclosed, but can still discern what's happening. We're going for a ride! His on-the-go bed is designed for comfort, safety and leisurely naps. He adores the prospect of a new adventure equally as



A travel day at CVS

Chief's corner

Help the Dudley PD; register those burglar and fire alarms

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

Many residents may not be aware that all home and business burglar and fire alarms currently in use here in the town of Dudley are required to be registered.

Local bylaw Chapter 117 is the regulation that governs alarm systems. This took effect back in 1998. Since the date for providing current information on these devices is nearing, I thought I would take this opportunity to remind everyone about the process.

Police officers and firefighters respond to house alarms quite frequently. Even though many of these have been activated accidentally or because of malfunction, responders treat them as if they are true emergencies. It is important to keep current contact info on file with public-safety officers in the event of a problem.

Section 3 of Chapter 117 of the Dudley bylaws outlines the procedure for registering these alarms. It reads "every alarm users shall submit to the police chief the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the user

and at least two other persons who can be reached anytime, day or night, and who are authorized to respond to an emergency signal transmitted by an alarm system and who can open the premises where the alarm system is installed. The list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of the responders must be kept current at all times by the alarm user and shall be submitted during the first month of each fiscal year."

July 1st is the beginning of the fiscal year and this is the date when information needs to be submitted. It is important to note that this bylaw applies to audible, flashing or monitored alarm systems designed for a police of fire response. Internal security cameras or doorbell alarms that only alert the resident, homeowner or private citizen are not required to be registered.

Please review Chapter 117 of the Dudley bylaws for further details.

Penalties for violations are covered under Section Five. It provides for a fine of \$25 for unregistered or late-registered fire alarms. In addition, \$25 can be charged for each month in which a homeowner is in noncompli-

ance. This can be costly if not addressed. We certainly hope to use fines as a last resort and we encourage everyone to voluntarily comply with the bylaw. It is important to have current and accurate information for first responders. This helps to protect your property from damage, allows emergency services and family members to be notified quickly, and limits the police and fire response in the event of a false alarm.

Please take the time to stop by the station for a form, or download one online via Facebook ("Dudley Police Department" @dudleyma.police). Visit our website, www.dudley-police.com, or simply provide the necessary information on a sheet of paper or via regular mail or email (listed below).

Whichever way you choose to do this, we thank you in advance for your cooperation in this effort.

For those still seeking vaccinations or Covid-related information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. During these challenging times, we at the Dudley Police Department appreciate the support we receive from the

community.

Thanks again for your comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St.,

Dudley MA 01571 or email swojnar@dudleypolice.com.

Online expressions in this column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted do

no reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

Continued from page 12

mind. I'm a writer. My words had been wiped. I stared down at my puppy. "Oh, Luke. You didn't know what you were doing."

Luke smiled calmly up at me. "Want to play?" He was over it a full two seconds ago.

"It will cost \$578.00 to repair the screen." The Apple technician delivered the cost of my inconsistency with such

patience. He had navigated the technical waters of password confusion and i-cloud cloudiness to track down the identification of my broken machine with blissful ignorance. I ran my fingers through my hair. "Wow. The screen alone costs that much." My gaze fell down on a patient Luke, who was seated beneath the workbench to partake on one of numerous "travel days." He smiled up at me as

he does during our travel days together, and reminded me that perfection is impossible. "I love it here. Thank you for taking me along with you."

If you want to learn more about how to best handle your pup—take him for the ride!

Stay tuned for more on Luke Valentino's trips and triumphs.

Write to me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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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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Sports

Bartlett 3 Sport Athlete Heading to UConn

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

While Covid was playing games with high school athletics, Bartlett athlete Camden Heenan put the pandemic to good use to try out another sport. When the MIAA added a Fall II season Heenan decided to try her hand at volleyball making her a one-year four sport athlete for the Indians. With volleyball added to her resume the Bartlett



senior has now played soccer, basketball, and softball for the high school.

Softball and basketball are her favorites to play but it's on the softball field where she excels at the higher level and although she was not offered a scholarship at UCONN she is contemplating trying out for the team, if not at least play club while in Storrs.

Having played on the junior varsity squad during the seventh and eighth grade she finally made the jump to the varsity team as a freshman and truly



showed that she belonged.

"Camden batted .348 for us as a lefty power hitter while she had a fielding percentage of .920 as a second baseman," Bartlett Softball Coach Courtney Stawiecki said. "She was named to the Southern Worcester County League's All Conference team as a freshman. As a tri-sport athlete she does well whatever she takes on."

Growing up Heenan started

playing baseball with the boys, basically because it was easier on her parent with 2 younger brothers and did so until she was 11 years old. It was her that she gravitated toward travel basketball before finally stepping onto a softball field in the seventh grade.

"There was no real difference, softball was the same as baseball," Heenan said. "I was young and just wanted to play,

but I also wanted to win while working together with the team."

Although she began her career as a second baseman, she eventually was moved over to shortstop due to a vacancy while she was playing on the varsity team.

"I had always played second base growing up as that is where they put me as I didn't have the strongest of arms back then," the senior shortstop said. "Now my

arm is much stronger, and I am able to make the plays and my movement is much quicker."

After having a breakout season during her freshman season, Heenan and her teammates were forced to hope and pray as they could not take the field until the strange pandemic was out of sight. Despite the loss of her sophomore high school season, she was still able to take part in a few tournaments during the summer with her travel team, but it was nothing that she had been used to.

When they were able to eventually get back onto the field hitting live pitching was something that they would have to get used to all over again.

"Due To the lack of hitting during the year and a half of Covid, my hitting was not what I had been," Heenan said. "During the time off all I could do was hit into a net in my backyard, it was nothing like live hitting."

Heenan, much like everyone else struggled at first but by the

end of her junior season she was fully back to normal at the plate.

As the Indians varsity shortstop got ready to begin her final high school season with Bartlett, she had a couple of goals in mind.

"This year we're on the younger side so I am sure that we'll be making a lot of mental errors, but once they clear their heads and go onto the next game, we'll be ok. This is a great group of girls that makes an all-around team" she said. "As for myself, I can't lie I want to hit my first high school homerun. I've been close a few times, but I really want to clear the fence."

Bartlett finished the season with a 9-9 regular season record earning themselves a place in the Division 2 State Tournament. Heenan and her Indian teammates are hoping to do better that the 2019 season when they last went 9-9 and lost in the first round of the tournament.

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Tales from beyond

Gay City State Park, haunted ghost town – Part 1

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

Here is another two-part account of one of New England's most haunted ghost towns. It is difficult to imagine that Gay City State Park in Hebron, Connecticut was once a fully populated community of twenty-five families, a woolen mill, a satin mill, two gristmills, charcoal pits, a church, a general store and other such necessary mercantile found in the small hamlets that dotted the early New England landscape.

Other than stone walls and foundations, there is not much evidence left to show that people once called the place home. There are also the ghosts that occasionally remind explorers of the old town that not only were they once residents in the flesh, but they are eternally tenanted there in spirit.

A small burial ground near the entrance of the park contains a few members of founding families. The stones are placed on either side of the burying yard facing each other. This lends credence to what history tells us about the two prominent families of Gay City, The Gays and the Sumners, and the animosity they

had toward one another.

The original name for the village was Factory Hollow. A preacher named Elijah Andrus steered his congregation toward the wooded hollow in 1796 only to leave four years later due to disagreements and quarrels within the congregation. This left Reverend Henry P. Sumner as the new spiritual leader. His grave is among the scant stones in the burying ground near the entrance of the park. Also in 1800 John Gay was chosen to head the town's affairs.

Reverend Sumner held church services twice a week, which to some was a bit too taxing on their time. To augment the attendance, rum was served during the meetings, but the libations would prove to be the downfall of the sermons. Arguments and even fistfights became common during the lectures, so much so that many of the families began migrating away from the town, including several of the founding families.

Reverend Sumner's son, Charles, founded a mill for the production of rag paper. Residents, along with laborers from nearby towns, began the arduous task of transporting stones for the foundation, dam and



beautiful stonework canal. Unfortunately, the powers of the dark did not wait very long to taint the massive undertaking.

During the construction of the dam and canal, one worker studied the angle of the duct and

concluded that the water was supernaturally flowing uphill toward the factory. He is reported to have dropped his tools and quit on the spot, calling the phenomenon the work of the devil. Others would follow in his

wake, bringing the construction of the venture to a temporary halt.

When the mill opened, and Factory Hollow saw a slight incline in prosperity. Many of the town's young men later enlisted

in the Civil War. Most of them never returned from battle, leaving a number of homes in Factory Hollow unoccupied and crumbling until a time when the elements of nature reclaimed the land. The paper mill burned in 1879, leaving the last vestige of the hamlet to the elements. Before long, trees and brush sprouted from the decaying cellar holes and foundations.

For the most part, Factory Hollow was now a true ghost town. Stories abound of ghostly encounters and unseen forces that wander among the living who visit the haunted hamlet.

Just before the Civil War, a jewelry peddler came rolling into town on his usual route. Peddlers were common in those days and sold everything from tin to top hats. The salesman suddenly disappeared without a trace. Shortly after his disappearance, a human skeleton was discovered in one of the charcoal pits at the edge of town. Evidently the purveyor of goods had a healthy sum of money on him that attracted the attention of some unsavory kind. No clues as to who was responsible for the crime ever turned up, and to this day, the murder remains unsolved.

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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

By Mark Marzeotti

If you're thinking of buying or selling a house, you're at an exciting decision point. And anytime you make a big decision like that, one thing you should always consider is timing. So, what does the rest of the year hold for the housing market? Here's what we see.

The number of homes available for sale is likely to grow. There are some early signs indicating that housing inventory is starting to grow and experts say that should continue in the months ahead.

The gap between this year's homes for sale and last year's is one-fifth the size that it was at the beginning of the year. The catch-up is likely to continue. This growth will likely mean more options for shoppers than they've had in a while, even though inventory continues to be behind pre-pandemic normal.

As a buyer, having more options is great news. Just remember, housing supply is still low, so be ready to act fast and put in your best offer up front. Let's get you prequalified!

As a seller, your house may soon face more competition when other sellers list their homes. But the good news is, if you're also buying your next home, having more options to choose from should make that move-up process easier.

Mortgage rates will likely continue to respond to inflationary pressures. Experts also agree inflation should continue to drive up mortgage rates, how-

What does the rest of the year hold for the housing market?

ever more moderately.

As a buyer, work with trusted realtors/real estate professionals, including your lender, so you can learn how rising mortgage rates impact your purchasing power. It may make sense to buy now before it costs more to do so, if you're ready. Call us if you are ready, we're here to help!

precipitating because there are still fewer homes for sale than there are buyers in the market. That said, experts agree the pace of that appreciation should moderate – but home prices won't fall.

Statistics show that home prices throughout the country have surged for the better part of two years, including in the first quarter of 2022. Given the ex-

a good investment and a strong hedge against inflation.

As a seller, price appreciation is great news for the value of your home. Again, lean on a member of Marzeotti Group or another professional to strike the right balance of the best conditions possible for both selling your house and buying your next one.



As a seller, rising mortgage rates are motivating some homeowners to make a move up sooner rather than later. If you're planning to buy your next home, talk to a trusted realtor/real estate advisor to decide how to time your move.

Home prices are projected to continue to climb. Home prices are forecast to keep ap-

precipitating because there are still fewer homes for sale than there are buyers in the market. That said, experts agree the pace of that appreciation should moderate – but home prices won't fall.

As a buyer, continued home price appreciation means it'll cost you more to buy the longer you wait. But it also gives you peace of mind that, once you do buy a home, it will likely grow in value. That makes it historically

Whether you're a homebuyer or seller, you need to know what's happening in the housing market, so you can make the most informed decision possible. Connect with a realtor/real estate advisor to discuss your goals and what lies ahead, so you can pick your best time to make a move.

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Q & A with The Car Doctor

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



Q. We have a 2011 Ford F150 extended cab pickup truck. We have a problem with the airbag light on the dash staying on. The problem seemed to start after we adjusted the seat in order to put a child safety seat in the back seat. We have researched on the Internet and have noticed a lot of other owners having this problem. Not just with this certain year and style. How do we fix this? We have tried most of the solutions mentioned and still the light is on. We have raised the seat and played with the connections but have not taken the driver's seat off yet and checked them. We have not gone to a Ford dealer due to the costs mentioned of those that have. Second question, with all the other owners complaining of this problem, how do we set in motion for a recall? This is a safety issue dealing with the airbag not functioning properly.

A. The first place to start is with a scan of the restraint system and

read the fault codes. When the light is on there will typically be a fault or error code, that code can lead to a proper diagnosis and repair. The other issue is sometimes this can be normal. The SRS or airbag light



can be on when the seat is too close to the air bag or the weight sensor in the seat detects a low weight occupant and shuts off the airbag to prevent harm to the passenger. Regarding filing a complaint go to www.nhtsa.gov and then file a complaint.

Q. I don't know if you can help me but I'm desperate at this point. I noticed that the back passenger floor of my 2008 Mercedes' C 300 was wet after it rained. On YouTube there are quite a few different cars that

this happens to with all different attempts to fix the problem. Mostly, they try to unclog the drains from the sunroof. I've tried almost all possibilities to fix the problem to no avail. Most mechanics refuse to deal with this, and auto body places want to rip the interior out which will cost me a fortune. I think car dealers should be held responsible. Any advice you can give me may help.

A. Most water leaks are caused by clogged drains, leaky seals (doors and windows) and clogged air conditioner evaporator drains. I would start with using low pressure air and blowing out the sunroof drains. I would also look to see that the drains in the bottom of the doors are clear. If that doesn't work, I would contact a few car dealers and see if they use a "freelance" leak detection technician. These air and water leak specialists know most of the tricks and locations of water leaks. Your 14-year-old car is well outside of any warranty and the dealer, or the manufacturer would not be responsible for a water leak.

Q. If I buy a five-quart jug of synthetic blend motor oil and use it over six months, would I be okay? With everything so expensive these days, if I see oil on sale, how long can I store it, before it "expires"?

A. This would not be a problem; I would only caution you to seal the container after each use. Many shops use oil stored in bulk containers and this oil can easily be months old. According to various oil manufacturers the typical shelf life of an unopened oil can be up to five years.

Q. Hello doc I own a 2016 Mazda CX5 with over 100,000 miles. I recently took it to the dealer for a new battery and asked to inspect the serpentine belt, to my surprise they said it looked fine. We take several trips a year and was hoping to get your thoughts on when to replace it?

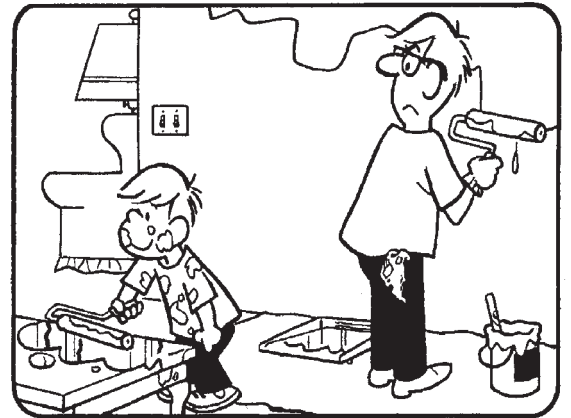
A. We are seeing serpentine belts lasting well over 100,000 miles and even those that are 10 years old still look fine. If the belt shows no signs of glazing, cracking or fraying chances are it will be fine. Now for peace of mind for less than \$300 you should be able to replace the serpentine and water pump belt and have no worries on your road trip.

Q. I have a 2005 Chrysler Sebring convertible, I have shaking at 55 miles per hour. I have had the tires balanced four times but still have the issue. I switched front tires to rear and the shimmy moves from front to rear. One mechanic said replace the shocks and maybe the wheel is out of round, I put two different tires on to test if it was the slipped belt, but it didn't make a difference. Any thoughts?

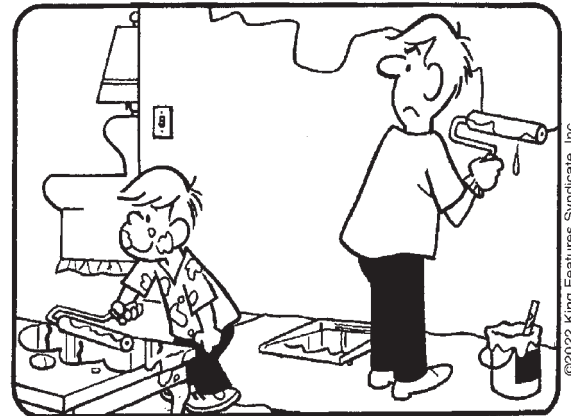
A. If the shop that is balancing the tires can't detect a defective tire or out of round wheel it is time to find a new shop. Since the vibration moves with the wheels you at least know which wheel/tire is the problem. Since your car is 17 years old I would start by cleaning the backs of the wheels where they mount to the hubs. Corrosion can build up and cause the wheels to wobble. A good technician with a dial indicator should be able to look for problems and offer a solution.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shade is smaller. 2. Switch is different. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Flag is missing. 6. Stick is moved.

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

What investors can — and can't — control

By Dennis Antonopoulos

As an investor, you can easily feel frustrated to see short-term drops in your investment statements. But while you cannot control the market, you may find it helpful to review the factors you can control.

Many forces affect the finan-

cial markets, including geopolitical events, corporate profits and interest rate movements—forces beyond the control of most individual investors.

In any case, it's important to focus on the things you can control, such as these:

- Your ability to define your

goals. One area in which you have total control is your ability to define your goals. Like most people, you probably have short-term goals, such as saving for a new car or a dream vacation, and long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. Once you identify your goals and estimate how much they will cost, you can create an investment strategy to help achieve them. Over time, some of your personal circumstances will likely change, so you'll want to review your time horizon and risk tolerance on a regular basis, adjusting your strategy when appropriate. And the same is true for your goals; they may evolve over time, requiring new responses from you in how you invest.

- Your response to market downturns. When the market drops and the value of your investments declines, you might be tempted to take immediate action in an effort to stop the losses. This is understandable. After all, your investment results can have a big impact on your future. However, acting hastily could work against you. For

example, you could sell investments that still have solid fundamentals and are still appropriate for your needs. If you can avoid decisions based on short-term events, you may help yourself in the long run.

- Your commitment to investing. The financial markets are almost always in flux, and their movements are hard to predict. If you can continue investing in all markets—good, bad or sideways—you will likely make much better progress toward your goals than if you periodically were to take a "time out." Many people head to the investment sidelines when the market tumbles, only to miss out on the beginnings of the next rally. And by steadily investing, you will increase the number of shares you own in your investments—and the larger your ownership stake, the greater your opportunities for building wealth.

- Your portfolio's level of diversification. While diversification itself can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help greatly reduce the im-

pact of market volatility on your portfolio. Just how you diversify your investments depends on several factors, but the general principle of maintaining a diversified portfolio should govern your approach to investing. It's a good idea to periodically review your portfolio to ensure it's still properly diversified.

The world will always be filled with unpredictable, uncontrollable events, and many of these will affect the financial markets to one degree or another. But within your own investment world, you always have a great deal of control—and with it, you have the power to keep moving toward all your important financial objectives.

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 St., Auburn. Tel. 508-832-535 or email dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

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Anne Vakcovic of Webster turns 100! Read all about it in the July issue of The Yankee Xpress.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Boys & Girls Club held their annual Spaghetti Dinner at Point Breeze Restaurant in Webster on May 26th. The Boys & Girls Club Helping Hands Award was presented to AJ Alkire, owner of Point Breeze, for sponsoring the event. AJ has sponsored this event since its inception in 2017 and donates the room and food to the B&GC. The event was once again a success and raised over \$5000 to support 2022 summer programs at the club. AJ is a big reason why this event is successful every year.



Pictured from left: Dan Wisniewski, Rob Bouchard, Charlie Baron, Liz Hamilton, John Lefebvre, AJ Alkire, Marilyn Fels, Dan O'Connor & Lori Smith

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- President William McKinley always wore a red carnation for good luck, but sometimes gave it away as a memento. When greeting a crowd in 1901, he handed a 12-year-old girl named Myrtle the bloom off his lapel, saying, "I must give this flower to another little flower." While it's not known if the gesture proved lucky for Myrtle, just minutes later McKinley was fatally shot by a man in the crowd.
 - The larger an animal's brain, the longer it will yawn.
 - Smoking has long been banned by airlines, but ashtrays are mandatory on every plane, for safe disposal in case someone breaks the law.
- A Chinese farmer named Wang Englin, who quit school in the third grade, spent 16 years teaching himself law in order to sue a chemical company that was polluting his village. Unable to buy all the books he needed, he paid a local bookstore with bags of corn to let him sit and read, copying information by hand and using a dictionary when necessary. He finally won his case in 2017.
 - During World War II, a Dutch warship was disguised as a tropical island to escape detection by the Japanese.
 - Convinced that stomach ulcers were caused by H. pylori bacteria, although no one else seemed to believe it, Dr. Barry Marshall drank the bacteria himself (testing it on humans was illegal), developed ulcers within days, treated them with antibiotics, and ended up winning a Nobel Prize.
- On average, professional soccer players run as far as 9 miles in a match.
- Thought for the Day: "Life is like arriving late for a movie, having to figure out what was going on without bothering everybody with a lot of questions, and then being unexpectedly called away before you find out how it ends."
— Joseph Campbell

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In honor of Slater's contribution to the creation and growth of our community, the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., invites Webster residents by street address to experience the birth of Webster with free admission on scheduled Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.*

Sunday, June 26 - Free admission for residents of:

2nd Island Rd	Goodness St	Little League Ln	Sibley Ave
Beacon St	Gorski Ave	Maynard Ave	Spring St
Beaudry Ln	Grandview Ave	Maynard St	Stefaniak Ave
Eastern Ave	Harris St	Mckays Way	West Ave
Emerald Ave	Lake St	New St	Woodlawn St
		Paradis Ln	Wyola Rd

More streets and dates to be announced.

NOTICE:
Samuel Slater Experience will be closed on Sunday, July 3 and July 10

*Two free admissions per household. Cannot be used with any other coupon or offer. Address ID required. Samuel Slater Experience closes at 4 p.m. Therefore latest admission time is 3 p.m.

Samuel Slater **EXPERIENCE**

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www.samuel Slater Experience.org

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