

The Yankee Xpress

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September 9 - October 7, 2022

Webster Dudley Business Alliance's Summer Hoorah a counter to seasonal doldrums

BY ROD LEE

The dog days of August are typically when merchants' organizations take a break. No breakfast or luncheon meetings, no workshops, no after-hours networking events.

The chance to put aside the usual activity associated with membership obligations is too good to pass up; besides which, the beach is calling.

The Webster Dudley Business Alliance's "Summer Hoorah"—free to all—is an exception to this rule.

Held at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen at the bottom of Frederick Street in Webster the evening of August 10th, the Summer Hoorah was both a celebration of Bill Sabine's outdoor beer garden and a salute to those enterprises associated with the WDBA that chose to be on-site as a way to advertise their products and services.

A rich mix of vendors was arrayed for attendees to check out.

Lucas Beaudette, who operates



Lucas Beaudette, with Melinda Beaudette and Ali Beaudette, operates workshops in Charlton, and was a vendor at the WDBA's Summer Hoorah.

workshops in Charlton, was present with a sampling of the nifty

WDBA

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It's the Flush – Out of Sight, Out of Mind

BY JANET STOICA

So who cares what we flush down our toilets, right? Well, if you're the Water and Sewer Superintendent, you care mightily and so should you, the flusher.

If there's one single, solitary product that will make your taxes go up due to major clogging and major repair bills at your town or city's sewage facility, it's those pesky "flushable wipes." They have caused millions of dollars in damage to wastewater treatment plants everywhere and should, most likely, be banned from our store shelves. If users would/could throw them in their trash baskets, problem solved. But, they don't. Down they go into the sewer system with one push of the toilet tank handle or button. What happens next is where the nightmare begins and where your tax dollars rise. The wipes wend their way through your home, apartment, or office's sewer pipes ending up at the sewer plant's bar screen filters where they build up, clog disgustingly, and entangle themselves into the pumping

system hardware, requiring major repairs, unclogging, and very expensive trucking away. Advice? Please stop flushing them! And, tell all your friends and relatives too.

Additional banes of your local waste treatment plant are what is referred to as FOG (fats, oils, and grease). Grease, fats, and oils cool quickly as they swirl down your waste pipes, causing major clogs. Gross? Yes. Revolting? Of course. Expensive to treat and another major contributing factor to, once again, raising your taxes for extra cleaning services on sewer plant machinery. Why don't people care what they send down their sink drains and toilets? It's that old saying: "Out of sight, out of mind." Other items that are certainly not meant to be flushed can be found at the end of this article courtesy of Webster's Water and Sewer Superintendent, Tom Cutler.

So here's the deal. Your fingertips are on that toilet tank lever or push button ... you flush. Down

FLUSH

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WDBA

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items that he manufactures by hand. Mr. Beaudette specializes in custom-made furniture, sign carving, photo framing and creative woodworking.

"I've been doing this for about six years," he said. "I have a full-time job, this is a side venture."

An avid naturalist who enjoys the New England outdoors, Mr. Beaudette is a self-taught woodworker who began what has become a satisfying trade by shaping his own skateboards as a teenager. He also has going for him that his late father was involved in many restoration projects. Mr. Beaudette's extended family includes antique dealers, collectors and crafters.

Also on hand at the WDBA's Summer Hoorah was Kristen St. Laurent of The Dancer's Sole, marking ten years as a provider

of dance instruction on the Webster-Dudley town line.

"Eighteen months to adult," Ms. St. Laurent said, of her clientele. "Primarily age three to seventeen, every form of dance."

"I have been a member of the WDBA since 2013."

Representing Westview Farm in E. Woodstock, Megan Hebert beamed in talking about a multigenerational family enterprise that sits on top of a hill with a panoramic view of a town rich in agriculture.

Westview Farm sells grass-fed and grass-finished beef, produces quality hay and maintains a seasonal farm stand that offers vegetables, berries, fresh eggs and cut flowers.

Founded as a dairy farm in the 1800s by the Wetherell family, Westview Farm was purchased in the 1970s by the Harmon's and kept as a dairy farm until the dairy herd was dissolved and a small herd of Hereford cattle added. Westview Farm with



the Hebert family now at the helm has changed from an 85% corn operation to almost 100% grasslands.

Lucas Perzan, owner of Insation Technologies in Webster and president of the WDBA, split time at the Summer Hoorah between demonstrating how prospective customers can "stop paying for cable!" and monitoring the goings-on around him.

Insation affords cus-

tomers the opportunity to stream more than seven thousand channels live, and "save big."

The WDBA is thriving, Mr. Perzan said.

"We have almost eighty members. Our next big event will be the opening of Prestige Nail Salon's location at 118 Main St., in September.

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



Above, Kristen St. Laurent, owner of The Dancer's Sole, took part in the Webster Dudley Business Alliance's Summer Hoorah at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen in Webster on August 10th.

Left, Megan Hebert represented Westview Farm, in E. Woodstock, at the WDBA's Summer Hoorah.

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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

A motorcycle trip, a book ... and stories to tell



BY ROD LEE

On the first page of his book *4 Strokes West*, about an unforgettable motorcycle trip he took with two friends years ago, Mark DerMugrditchian of Northbridge writes “show me a person who always knows what comes next, and I’ll show you a person who may not know the exhilaration of uncertainty.”

Like Mr. DerMugrditchian, I have an appreciation for how a motorcycle can change your life. Mine, most recently, was a Yamaha 650, sold several years ago to a young man from Connecticut who put it on a trailer on a dark and rainy night and drove off.

The thrills I got tooling around the back roads of Central Massachusetts cannot compare to those my friend Mark enjoyed on what he calls “An Amazing American Adventure.”

This was a long time ago, 1976. “I had an idea, which then became a dream,” he writes. The personalities of himself and two buddies—

Steve and Tom—were “a recipe for unpredictability. Get a Virgo, an Aries and another Aries in one room, and that’s what happens.”

Recently, on the afternoon of August 11th, during an appearance at the Northbridge Senior Center, Mark shared with elders some remarks about the trip “The Bachelors Three” made from Massachusetts to California. He was introduced by the

Senior Center’s program and volunteer coordinator, Amy Cowen, who, like Director Kelly Boll, was pleased to welcome a local author to Highland St. as part of the Senior Center’s ongoing lineup of activities and entertainment.

Difficult as it is to write and market a book, *4 Strokes West* deserves the interest it is drawing. The reason for this is that Mark describes in candid and

vivid detail what he and his buddies experienced as they made their way across the country on their Honda CB 360 T motorcycles.

They rode in rain and snow. They were sometimes cold, wet, hungry and tired. They slept in a tent under the stars for nights on end. They hiked. They argued. They met celebrities, including Muhammad Ali. They saw monuments and historical sites and national parks. They forged new friendships, verifying, Mark says, the truth of Honda’s slogan “you meet the nicest people on a Honda.”

Mark set as his themes for the book “think big,” “dream and keep dreaming until they come true,” “be nice to people,” and “thank God for all His blessings.”

Now, as then, he believes America is “a great country.”

It is great even when things turn ugly, as they did one night in New Orleans when Mark, Steve and Tom were kibitzing with some women at a club, Crazy Shirley’s. Outside, after escorting the women away and returning to their bikes, they were jumped by two men they’d seen in the bar. They men had been giving them dirty looks.

“They were carrying pieces of lead pipe as they walked towards us,” Mark writes. “Things had gotten very serious, very fast. They stopped ten feet away. ‘So

you boys like stealing other men’s girls, huh?’” one of them said.

A fight ensued. Mark, Steve and Tom prevailed.

“We came from wholesome, happy families that had led to our generally positive outlook on life,” Mark writes. “But it seemed like we were always running into people who were looking for problems.”

As he put it to his pals in bed, afterwards, “I’m just sick and tired of being bullied or pushed around.”

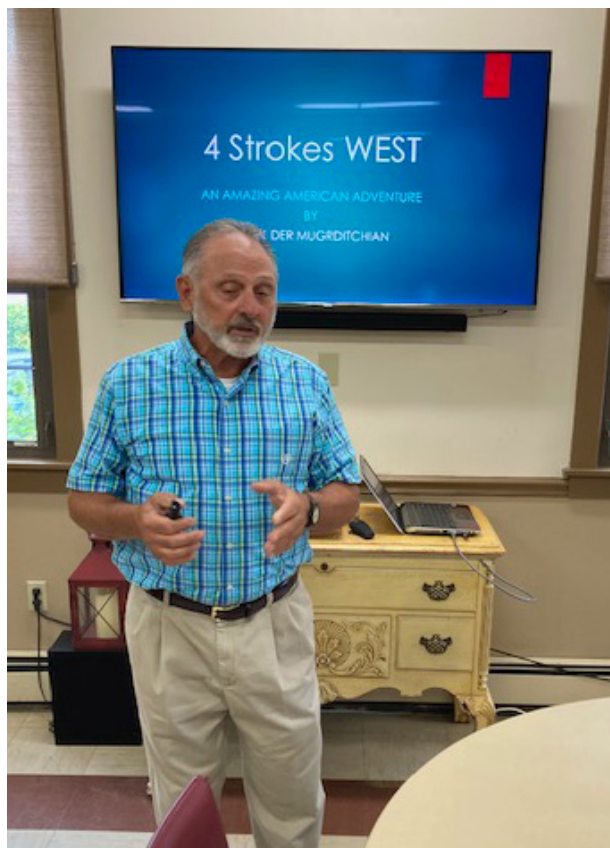
This was an exception, however. Most of the people Mark and his pals encountered were gracious, kind and helpful.

After nine months and 22,300 miles, he had to write the story, even though it took a while to get it published.

It’s a good one and he is working hard to promote the book.

“I have an interview with Jan Lewis (host of *Be My Guest* on Upton Community Television), a presentation at a big Armenian church in Watertown that could involve over one hundred people and after that maybe another one at a church in Watertown and an interview on Worcester cable in October,” he says.

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



Mark DerMugrditchian, author of *4 Strokes West*, prepares to talk about his book at the Northbridge Senior Center.

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Owner and CEO Mike McDonald is an expert on numismatics & collectibles. He is the past president for many years of the Blackstone Valley Coin Club. He runs 14 shows a year. 12 monthly shows in Uxbridge & 2

shows in Woonsocket RI. He was on the season finally episode of *Pawn Stars* in 2012, bringing in an Abraham Lincoln campaign token. He also works with local and national authorities on anti-numismatic crime.


Co-Owner Robin McDonald is the company’s finance, trade show and logistics manager. Kevin Palardy is an expert in World’s Fair Exonomia, copper cents & on-line sourcing. General manager Patrick Gannon is a nuclear aerospace engineer major who is an expert in paper currency, online sourcing & most every area of collectibles and exonomia.

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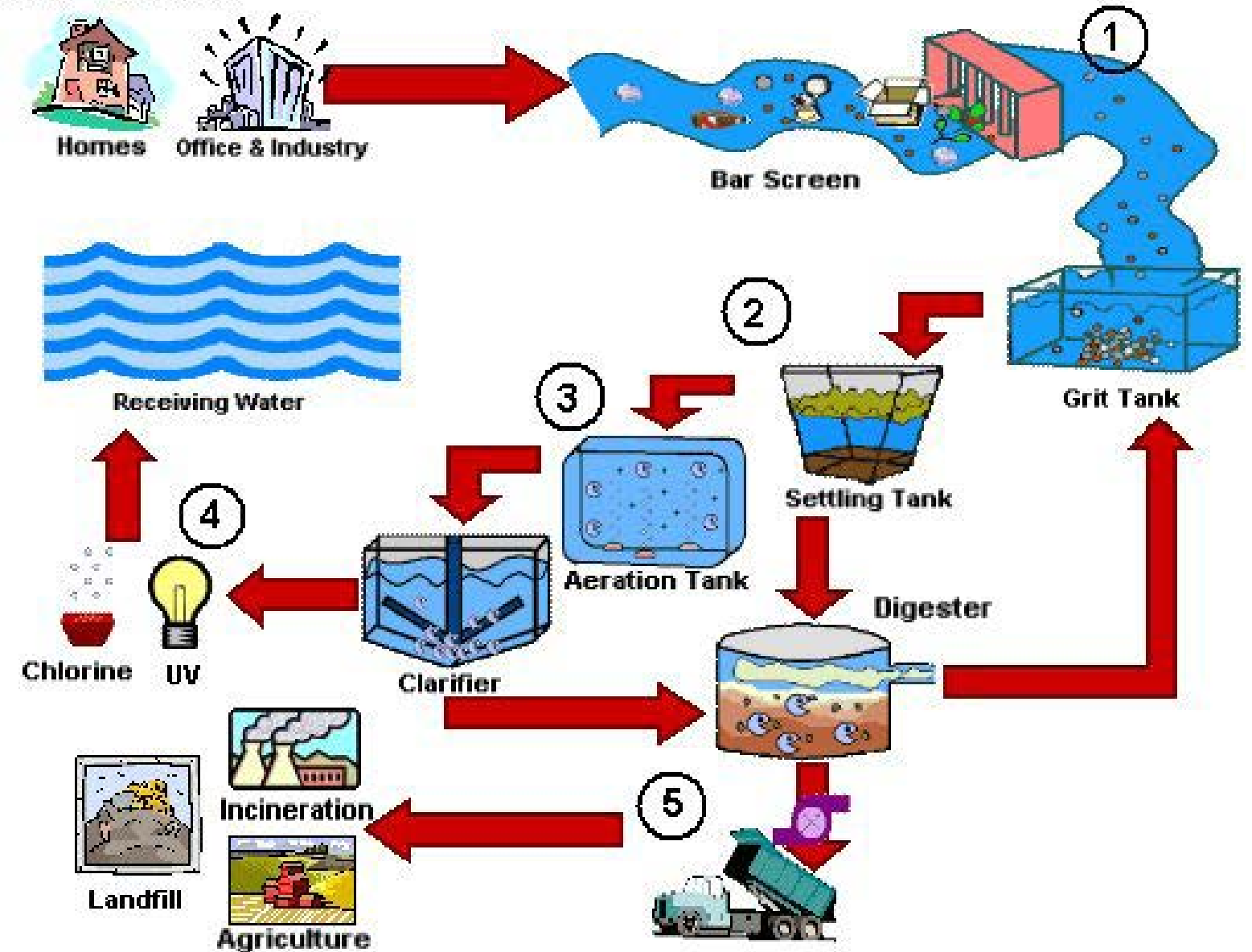
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FLUSH

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the toilet pipes goes the waste into your building's six-inch (service lateral) sewer pipe with the grateful assistance of the water in your toilet tank using a simple gravity flow. From there, the next two stops are an eight-inch connector pipe or a sewer pumping station and then a 30-inch main. In Webster's case, there are approximately 25 sewer pumping stations of various sizes that serve as waste collection sites for areas of lower elevation. These stations collect waste and then pump it to a higher level so that gravity can resume its work flow to the local sewer plant. When the waste water flows into the sewer plant, it is filtered through a bar screen (there's those disgusting "flushable" wipes again), then flows into a sludge tank where bio-solids are stored before further processing. Next stop is the aeration tanks. Here, air is added to the sludge to promote biodegradation of organic contaminants. A clarifier tank is the next stop where solids settle to the bottom of the tank and are removed for recycling. Floating substances are gathered by a rotating skimmer on the surface of the water. Then, it's on to the digesting tanks holding bacteria that digest residual solids. Sewage

HOW IT WORKS



tanker trucks are then used for transportation of the remaining residual solids to incineration facilities and after undergoing strict additional sanitizing, the remaining liquid is released

into local waterways. If there's anything to take away from reading this article, it's to remember that the only two items that should be flushed down the sewer are human

waste and toilet paper. Here's the remaining list of items Not to Flush: DO NOT FLUSH OR POUR · Cloth rags or paper towels · Wipes (baby, adult, disinfecting, etc.) ·

Feminine hygiene products · Used medications · Beauty products, Q-tips, dental floss · Plastics of any kind · Diapers · Fats, oils, and grease · Garden supplies (pesticides, fertilizers).

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



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Self-publishing nonfiction is topic of workshop at Booklovers' Gourmet

Business professionals, speakers, educators and entrepreneurs are among those who know that publishing a book can amplify your message and attract new opportunities.

With that in mind, Lindsay Whiting, a book coach and publishing consultant, will present a free workshop at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St. in Webster, on Saturday, September 10th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Ms. Whiting's program is entitled "Why You Need a Plan to Self-Publish Your Book" and is free. Registration is required. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com.

The focus of Ms. Whiting's workshop is nonfiction.

Among the books recommended during the week of August 26th as part of Booklovers' Gourmet's "Shelf Awareness" newsletter is Sinclair McKay's "Berlin," a history from World War I to 1989, which



Lindsay Whiting

is described as "a love letter to the indomitable spirit of Berliners."

Also, "Big Red: A Novel Starring Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles" by Jerome Charyn," with "delicious cameos" by Hollywood players; "Brand-New Bubbe," by Sarah Aronson,

illustrated by Ariel Landy, "an interfaith celebration of open-mindedness and the unifying power of a good bowl of soup."

Other popular reads include "Perma Red" by Debra Magpie Earling; "Fathers and Children" by Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev, trans-

lated by Nicolas Pasternak Slater and Maya Slater; "The Hundred Waters," by Lauren Acampora; "Haven," by Emma Donoghue; "Madwoman," by Louisa Treger; "The Blame Game," by Sandie Jones; "Babysitter," by Joyce Carol Oates; "Bad Fruit," by Ella King; "The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches," by Sangu Mandanna; "Bend Toward the Sun," by Jen Devon; "The Undertaking of Hart and Mercy," by Megan Bannen; "Love on the Brain," by Ali Hazelwood; "Long Past Summer," by Noue Kirwan; "A Dreadful Splendor," by B.R. Myers; "Berlin: Life and Death in the City at the Center of the World," by Sinclair McKay; and "The End of Solitude: Selected Essays on Culture and Society," by William Deresiewicz.

Nichols College students get to extend summer fun with donation of branded Wiffle bats

Nichols College received a donation of 200 custom Wiffle bat and ball sets to help students get back into the swing of fall classes, which start August 29.

The donation came from Starkweather & Shepley, an insurance brokerage firm headquartered in East Providence, R.I., and was facilitated by its Chief Financial Officer Richard Anderson, a 1986 graduate of Nichols College. As part of a business development campaign promoting the company's commitment to the community, they commissioned one of their clients, the third-generation family-owned Wiffle Ball Inc., to

create the Bison-branded bats and balls.

In addition, Starkweather & Shepley donated \$500 to



Nichols to support student activities. The college, which already maintains a Wiffle ball field, plans to host a tournament and have the iconic toys available through campus recreation to extend a bit of summer fun in the school year.

Webster sewer rehab underway

BY JANET STOICA

The town's sewer system rehabilitation project began in late spring and is an ongoing development aimed at eliminating storm water drainage into the town's sewer system.

"This project will help to decrease the large amounts of rain water that have been seeping into our town's older sewer pipes," said Tom Cutler, Water and Sewer Superintendent. "This plan entails slip-lining sewer pipes with PVC liners and sewer pipe spot repairs thereby reducing rain water leaching into our sewer pipes so that the extra sewer plant treatment is unnecessary. It is more expensive for our sewer plant processes when rain water flows into our sewer system. After a heavy rain-storm our expenses might increase from \$6 million to \$15 million. This excess water in our plant can cause overflows that will wash everything into the rivers and streams and with state and federal regulations so strict, we have to eliminate such situations from occurring." Cost savings will be realized by the town's

taxpayers.

Construction for the \$1.22 million project began on May 24, 2022 and is part of the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

According to Mr. Cutler, when large rain storms hit the area, the excess water seeps into the ground and then seeps into the aging sewer pipes. Manhole and sewer main inspection with remote cameras determined the extent of necessary work and resident impact is low. Inspections are almost complete and the following streets are in process of rehab or are on the current list: Aldrich, Ash, Boyden, Boyden Street Extension, Brandes, Brook, Brook Street Extension, East Main, and First Streets. Also, Grenier and Klebart Avenues, Kosmas Street, Lake Parkway, Lincoln Street, Nipmuck Lane, Park Avenue, Perryville Road, Poland Street, School Street, Stephen Drive, Third Street, Thompson Road, Upland Avenue, Valley and Whitcomb Streets.

The rehabilitation process includes the cleaning

and lining of 12,100 feet of pipe and selected excavating of spot repairs. Conclusion of the first phase is expected in November and the second phase should be completed by next August.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

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A memorable night with a Canadian thermostat

BY JANET STOICA

Yes, of course, I remember those wonderful teenage years of not having to worry about paying bills, having a job, or wondering where my next meal was coming from. Wasn't that awesome?

One of the best summers of my life was when I turned 14 and my dear Aunt Genevieve and Uncle John asked me to join them on a four-week vacation through three Canadian Provinces beginning with a world's fair expo in Montreal, Quebec. We

then drove through New Brunswick and down to the tip of Nova Scotia visiting my aunt's relatives. From there we took the Blue Nose Ferry to Bar Harbor, Maine and then back home to Massachusetts and Connecticut. This would be the first time I'd ever been away from my immediate family for an extended vacation. My mom cried when I left and my dad and brother happily wove as I gazed through the car's back window as it transported me down the street to a most wonderful adventure. We drove north through Vermont stopping

in Rutland for two nights and a little sightseeing at some of the well-known Vermont rock quarries (hooray, if you know what I mean).

During the rest of the long drive to Montreal, I became acutely aware of my aunt & uncle's most minute behaviors and their tendency to be part of that infamous couple known as The Bickersons and wow, did they bicker. As they took turns driving, I learned that my aunt didn't know how to drive worth two cents according to my uncle and my uncle always tail-gated way too close for



my aunt's comfort. I tried to ignore their very personal and stressful behavior but their loud disagreements always intruded on

whatever book or magazine I buried my nose in as I sat in the backseat wondering if the nausea I was experiencing was that carsickness that everyone always talked about when trying to read in a moving vehicle. Looking out the windows soon became tiring and I had no backseat companion to cast knowing glances to while snickering about the front seat behavior. I sure could have used a portable DVD player, an iPod, or even a cellphone, but those wonderful electronics were unavailable then. (Hey! Am I showing my age or what?!)

Montreal came & went, however, and we all enjoyed ourselves to the max. The Expo was amazing and filled with new and exciting sights and sounds much like Walt Disney's EPCOT. My uncle always travelled with a lot of cash which he had neatly folded into a money belt (a new item I had never seen before). What an awesome accessory. Very finely-detailed leather and it surely would've looked cool as a regular belt.

My uncle also enjoyed a nightly cocktail, a fat cigar or two, and took his own brand of cocktail nightcap with him. He and my aunt dined top-shelf as well. She delighted in lobster Newberg and he frequently had a porterhouse steak or filet mignon. They always instructed me to "please order whatever you'd like" from whatever restaurant's menu I was awestruck with. I tried many new foods but came to realize that a good cheeseburger or a gourmet hot dog was right up my alley. My own family was not one to dine out very frequently so I learned much about liquor types, wines, and gourmet dining that summer even though I never was allowed to sip anything stronger than a coke but did partake of a tasty filet mignon or two.

My learning that summer also included how not

to use a motel room thermostat. As we drove north through Quebec and then the notable Riviere-du-Loup which is where the Trans-Canadian Highway turns officially south into the Maritime Provinces, we passed into the Province of New Brunswick. There, in Moncton, we stopped at a small but very cozy motel.

And it was a very cool July evening. After dining at a small restaurant, we returned to our motel, took showers, and I jumped into my bed to get warm as my relatives watched a little TV before retiring to their own bed. I could never seem to warm up so I waited for them to turn in and when I heard my uncle's soft snoring, I rose from my bed and tip-toed over to the thermostat thinking if I turned that device all the way to the right (to the high-temp reading) I would be the hero of the evening. After turning that thermostat to the right and imagining my hero status in the morning, I slipped back into bed and soon became warm and comfortable falling asleep shortly thereafter. About 2 a.m. I was rudely awakened by my uncle's loud shouting to my aunt asking her why is it so darned HOT in here!?! (Actually, his words were much more profane.) The man turned the lights on and in three long strides was in front of the wall thermostat adjusting his glasses as sweat poured down his sideburns. He yelled out: "Who turned this up to 85 degrees?" I quickly threw the covers over my head and, at this point, my uncle muttered something about how I would never be allowed to touch another thermostat again as long as he lived. He threw open the room door and the cool night air rushed in, relieving us of our sauna. After a quick five-minute cool-down, my aunt came to my rescue, as always, calming my uncle until we all fell asleep once again. My uncle never let me forget that day and, obviously, I haven't forgotten that heat-filled evening either ...

Since those many long years ago, I have become the proud owner of my own programmable thermostat, use it to my budget's acceptance, and wonder frequently what I was truly thinking on that cool summer night in Canada ...

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Aviation Weekend at AHM will celebrate WWI planes, pilots

World War I aircraft will take center stage at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson on September 17th and 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.

rotary engines as well.

As a bonus, original rare WWI uniforms and flight clothing worn by World War I aviators will be available for viewing. These are part of the Parks Collection that has been moved to the

unit to achieve the status of ace.

Gates open at 9:00 a.m. for the shows.

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



A special treat for visitors to the AHM that weekend will be the unveiling of the museum's original 1917 Nieuport 28 restoration project and plans to fly the craft each day. The AHM is also working with several organizations to bring and display their accurate World War I aircraft and original

AHM. Such uniforms as that of Douglas Campbell, American's first ace, can be seen, as well as the original leather flight coat of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker.

Douglas Campbell was an American aviator and WWI flying ace. He was the first American aviator flying in an American-trained air

This is a rare opportunity for visitors to see some of the world's rarest aircraft, classic American automobiles, historic tanks, armored vehicles, military artifacts and more.

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

Food, food and more food at this year's Big E

This year's Big E, running from September 16th through October 2nd, will offer more foods than ever, organizers announced.

New locations set to be part of the 2022 Big E are as follows.

SoulFully. New England Avenue. 100% vegan, flame-grilled burgers, grilled hot dogs, loaded fries and milkshakes.

Cha Feo. Young Building. Various milk teas, Boba teas and Thai teas.

Riceballs Arancini. East Road. Beef, veggie, Big Mac, Philly, Italiano Riceballs, Arancini.

Ferrindino Maple Farm. Better Living Center. Maple Cotton Candy and Maple Cream.

Bakery on Brewer. New England Avenue. Apple, Apple Bacon, Blueberry and Pumpking Fritters.

Sassys Sweet Potatoes. Roasted Root Veggies, Sweet Potato Tacos, Sweet

Potato Bread, Sweet Potato Pie and Southwest Sweet Potatoes.

The Happy Dough Co. West Road. Apple Fries and



Apple Fry Sundaes.

Villa of Lebanon. Young Building. Baba Ganoush, Baklava, Kafta Kabobs, Falafel, Hummus, Kataif, Kunapa, Meat Pies, Spinach Pie, Tabouli.

Boardwalk Noodles. The Front Porch (Inside Gate 5). Yakisoba Noodles and Rice Bowls.

The Place 2 Be. The Front Porch. Breakfast all day.

Las Kangris Food Truck. Young Building. Yellow Rice with Pigeon Peas, Baked Pork, Baked Chicken, Green Bananas 'al mojo' and Seafood Salad.

Kulfi Ice Cream

Taste of Persia.

Food Court.

Frankie's Famous Italian Frozen Lemonade.

Young Building. Chick-Fil-A. Springfield Road. Chicken Sandwiches, Wraps and more.

The West Side Grille, cider garden sponsored by Downeast Cider. Outside the Young Building. Craft Ciders and more.

Ann Maries Candies. West Road.

For more details about Massachusetts' annual state fair, a true extravaganza and memorable experience, go to TheBigE.com.

Southwick's Festival of Illumination returns with new features

Southwick Zoo's popular Festival of Illumination is back for a four-month run, bigger and better than ever.

Belinda Mazur, marketing manager for the Festival of Illumination, said this year's theme is "Once Upon a Time." The event began September 1st and continues through December 31st from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Working again with the award-winning Zigong Lantern Group, the Festival of Illumination will offer zoo visitors a look at extraordinary Chinese lanterns utilized in larger-than-life exhibits to showcase myths, legends and fairytales from around the globe.

There is also a new twist for 2022 that will add an exciting component to the production. There will be live entertainment, Chinese acrobats, an Asian marketplace, interactive exhibits, specialty foods, and more.

Then on November 26th zoo patrons will be able to enjoy Southwick's traditional Winter Wonderland



holiday lights in combination with holiday-themed Chinese lanterns.

Ms. Mazur recommends that those planning to take in the Festival of Illumina-

tion purchase their tickets in advance. This can be done at www.festivalofillumination.com or www.southwickzoo.com.

EXTRA! EXTRA!



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The Yankee Xpress

Slater's Sheep add new element to the Samuel Slater Experience story

A number of life-sized sheep have begun grazing outside local civic and commercial buildings at part of the Slater's Sheep initiative, a community art project launched last year to support the Samuel Slater Experience.

Described as "Disney-like," the museum employs state-of-the-art 4-D digital technology to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution and the founding of the town of Webster in the early 1800s.

Samuel Slater Experience, a nonprofit corporation, invited local business and organizations to become sponsors in the mission to educate youth with a historically accurate recreation of the Webster area's contributions to the American Industrial Revolution. Sponsors have produced twenty-five of Slater's Sheep and each will become an original work of art, painted by a local artist. "Webster was the site of the country's first woolen mill. The sheep are a fun way to involve the business community here in Webster

and neighboring towns in getting behind the museum during our first year," SSE Founder Chris Robert said. "Having the sheep pop up around town also helps bring a bit of Samuel Slater out to the community."



Sponsors decide where the sheep will be displayed. Constructed of resin and fiberglass, the sheep were fabricated by Nebraska-based Icon Poly.

Grazing in front of Webster Town Hall is Jeffco Fibres' painted sheep, depicting shepherds by day and night. Nearby is Rampco Construction's sheep, which features heavy equipment at work and leisure life at Treasure Island. Across the street, JV Mechanical Contractors' sheep in the

Webster Police Department parking lot depict plumbers' history and tools.

At Webster's Gladys E. Kelly Public Library a sheep named Hiram features images and symbols of the Webster Masonic Lodge.

In Dudley, Marty's of Dudley sheep's quilt is a tribute to the textile industry.

At the Oxford Public Library Swissturn/USA's sheep Maizy reflects the company's metal components business.

Other sheep currently on display are at Samuel Slater's Restaurant in Webster, Christopher Heights in Webster, and at Webster Dudley Business Alliance member

locations.

More sheep will be put out to graze in coming weeks at Webster Five Cents Savings Bank Webster First Federal Credit Union, Aubuchon Hardware, Central Mass Auto Auction LLC, IPG Photonics, Webster Medical Center, Bennett J. Smith Jr. and Carol H. Smith, Choice 1 Temps and Choice 1 Graphics, the Webster Police Department and other police departments, the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.

Samuel Slater Experience is open year round Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The museum is located in the former National Guard Armory at 31 Ray St. in Webster.

Visit samuel Slater Experience.org for more information.

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SEPTEMBER 17 • 8PM	COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATER'S WITH TONY V & GUESTS
SEPTEMBER 23 • 8PM	MUSIC WITH AQUANETT
SEPTEMBER 24 • 8PM	FANTASIA DRAG SHOW
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OCTOBER 28 • 8PM	HALLOWEEN WITH THE FLOCK

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BY ROD LEE

Every so often, as has again been the case in recent days, the subject of all the restaurants in the Blackstone Valley that have been lost to time comes up.

Several of these, including the Klondike Inn on Providence Road in South Grafton, have been shuttered and for all intents and purposes abandoned for years.

Not until the topic of the disappearance of these once-popular dining establishments is addressed in conversation does the full picture of their unfortunate fate come into clearer focus.

There is the Klondike, there is Sammy's (formerly Riverside and before that the Bungalow) in Northbridge, along with Jube's in Whitinsville, the Blue Jay in Sutton and of course the Cocke 'n Kettle in Uxbridge which is the one whose status is most intriguing.

With the exception of Jube's in the Whitinsville Plaza at Plummer's Corner, which only of late shut its doors, and the Blue Jay, which was ravaged by fire and subsequently became the site of the new Sutton Police Department building, all are showing telltale signs of neglect and ruin.

In August of 2020, in a post on Facebook, Cliff Valarose, a member of the Blackstone Valley Reminiscent Society, asked for recollections of the Klondike, which he said had been closed for more than twenty years.

"Tom Remillard cooked there for years," came one response.

From Janneke A. Schotanus came the observation that she had looked into buying and renovating the property "as a massage and wellness center" with "a yoga barn."

Susan Boutiette Ellbeg, a neighbor of the former Klondike, noted that the property is owned by the Cheng Du family of Westborough and that the liquor license is still active. But nothing has happened with it and the grounds are overgrown and the building is in disrepair.

The Klondike was famous for its fish 'n chips, prime rib and banana cream pie—among other fare.

Nick and Marge Sampson

Once-popular restaurants, now closed and forgotten



and the Sampson family owned and operated the Cocke 'n Kettle until its closure in 2008. It was subsequently purchased by Odisefs "Tom" Tsimogiannis of Harry's Pizza in Whitinsville for \$781,000

in 2014.

The Cocke 'n Kettle was renowned for both its atmosphere with dark woods and studded leather chairs and its menu, which included corn fritters (popovers) that people still talk about,

French onion soup and much more.

It was also a frequent destination for birthdays, anniversaries and weddings; and meetings of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.



Clockwise from above: The Cocke 'n Kettle in Uxbridge, closed since 2008; Sammy's Restaurant in Northbridge, closed since around 2015; The Klondike Inn in South Grafton, closed for more than two decades.

Contacted a few days ago and asked if anything was developing with the Cocke 'n Kettle, Mr. Tsimogiannis said "no news is good news." He then added "I am a very private person and don't want to talk about it."

What's interesting is that in the case of the Klondike, Sammy's and the Cocke 'n Kettle there is not even any evidence that the properties are being marketed.

Signs posted at the Cocke 'n Kettle declare it is private property and say "no trespassing."

Sammy's when it was the Riverside, before Sultan Salahuddin bought it, was owned by brothers Al and Larry Vinca, who were friendly and who made improvements to the old Bungalow; among these was a new bar.

The Riverside was open for lunch and dinner. Sammy's had established a good reputation for pizza, pasta and seafood.

All five of these establishments are fondly remembered and curiosity

remains about what will become of them.

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

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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.

UPCOMING AT INDIAN RANCH IN WEBSTER:

• September 10, The Pike Rock Fest 2023, 12:00 noon. September 11, Nash Icon Local Country Fest, 12:00

noon. October 8, Jamey Johnson Live in Concert, 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-3849 or at the Indian Ranch Box Office.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

• The Zap the Blackstone Revival,

celebrating fifty years of efforts to clean up the Blackstone River, will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark, 67 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket. For more information call 401-724-2200 X 209.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

• The Auburn Chamber of Commerce's 27th annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Blackstone National Golf Club, 227 Putnam Hill Road, Sutton.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

• The Douglas Library Intrepid Readers Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. to discuss David McCullough's book "The Great Bridge: the epic story of the building of the Brooklyn Bridge." Mr. McCullough's book is available in book form or on CDs for audio listeners. New members are always welcome. Homemade refreshments, inspired by the title being discussed, will be served. Call the Simon Fairfield Public Library at 508-476-2695 for further details.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

• The Rotary Club of Blackstone Valley will host its annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Tournament at Blissful Meadows in Uxbridge from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$125 per golfer or \$500 per foursome, and \$40 for dinner only. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/unipaybvrotary> or send your payment to The Rotary Club of Blackstone Valley, PO Box 4, Whitinsville MA 01588.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

• The Valley Business Network's Networking at Night event will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Town House Tavern, 1 Grafton Common. To register or for more info contact Lucian.hunt@cruiaplanners.com.
 • "Zosia: Immigration and Industry Along the Blackstone River," a re-enactment and power-point presentation by Helen Rawinski Blazis, will be offered free to the public at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury Center at 7:00 p.m. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Grafton Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by the Millbury Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 2

The Big E, Massachusetts' state fair, Springfield.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

• Gazebo-Palooza, a benefit bash for the upcoming Small Stones Festival of the Arts, will be held just off the Grafton Town Common behind the Grafton Town House from noon to 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. Children under ten get in free when accompanied by an adult. Soft drinks, wine and locally crafted beer will be available along with food from some of the area's restaurants including Bushel N Peck, Grafton Grill &



American country music singer and songwriter Jamey Johnson, whose hits include "The Dollar" and "That Lonesome Song," performs at Indian Ranch in Webster on October 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Crust The Grafton Inn, Pepperoni Express, Post Office Pub Reunion Table & Tap and Town House Tavern. There will also be live music provided by local favorites including Josh Briggs and friends and Old Tom & The Lookouts.
 • The Stewardship Committee of St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug Road, Douglas, will present a "divine" comedy of belly laughs, blessings, blarney and bingo featuring Fr. Patrick Aloysius Misgivings relating his stories and one liners about growing up Catholic. This event is for those 21 or older. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. The show starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and include heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Tickets can be purchased online at SaintDenisChurch.com, in person after all masses in August and early September or by calling the Rectory at 508-476-2002. "Don't miss this delightful and uplifting one-man show!" Cynthia Murphy says.

SEPTEMBER 17-18

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, will present "World War I Aviation Weekend" with a public unveiling of the restored Nieuport 28 fighter in the colors of Douglas Campbell. A visiting exhibit of World War I replica aircraft is expected. Demonstrations of rotary engines and the AHM's World War I ambulance will be included. Tank rides and WWII biplane rides are available for an additional charge. Visit www.americanheritagemuseum.org for more info.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

• The Last Green Valley presents

"Tastes of the Valley, Farmer at the Table," from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Public House Historic Inn, Main St., Sturbridge. This event starts with a social hour featuring tastes and sips from local chefs, brewers, vintners and distillers crafted with locally farmed ingredients, followed by a multi-course seated meal prepared by local chefs. Then dessert. There will also be live and silent auctions. For more information go to <https://thelastgreenvalley.org>.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

• The 16th annual Uxbridge Senior Center "Sweet 16" Golf Outing, sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, will be held at Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville starting at noon with a shotgun start. This fundraiser benefits programs and activities at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Teams of four can sign up to play for \$100 per golfer for nine holes including cart and buffet dinner. Contact Russ Rosborough at 508-579-5983 or Karen Beane at 508-769-3816. A full sponsorship is available for \$600, which includes fees for four golfers, carts and dinner plus tee sign with additional acknowledgment in press and print matter.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• The Douglas High School Celebration Graduation Committee will host a pasta dinner fundraiser at the high school, 33 Davis St., from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meal includes pasta, meatballs, sauce, salad and breadsticks donated by Olive Garden, along with desserts. At the present time the Committee needs to raise more than



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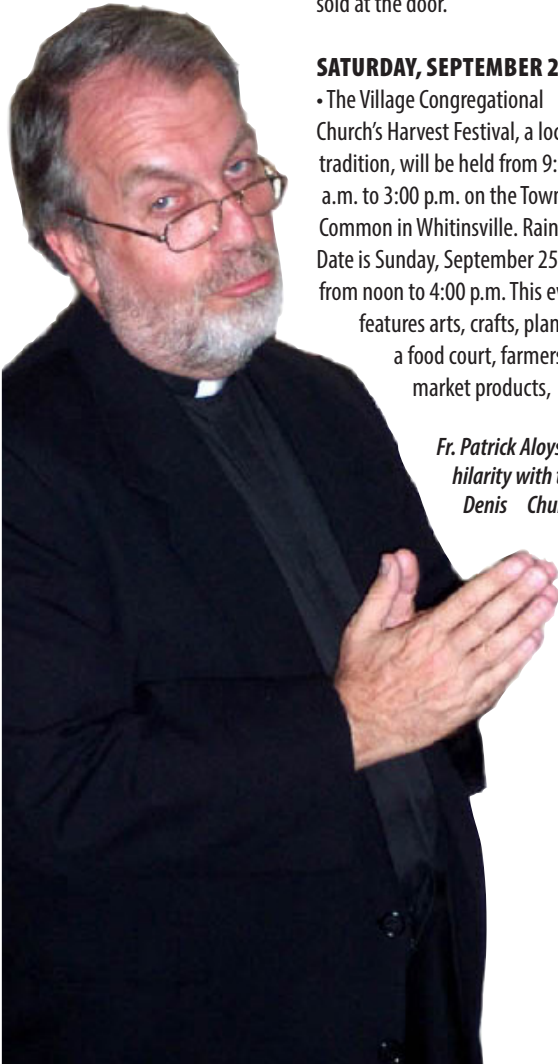
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HAPPENINGS!
continued from page 10



\$20,000. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the Douglas High School senior all-night celebration. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under twelve. CASH tickets will be sold at the door.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

• The Village Congregational Church's Harvest Festival, a local tradition, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Town Common in Whitinsville. Rain Date is Sunday, September 25th from noon to 4:00 p.m. This event features arts, crafts, plants, a food court, farmers market products,

Fr. Patrick Aloysius Misgivings guarantees an evening of hilarity with thoughts on his Catholic faith at the St. Denis Church in Douglas on Saturday, September 17th.

a bounce pad, entertainment, children's activities and games, music, a large variety of raffle prizes and a special handmade quilt raffle. VCC is looking for volunteers and vendors. Call 508-234-7901 for further details.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

• A seminar, "Health Care and Your Retirement," is being offered at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, in advance of Medicare Open Enrollment, which begins October 15th. Registration is at 5:45 p.m. The seminar starts at 6:00. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern

for current and future retirees. In fact, thirty years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as health care. Now the amounts are nearly equal. Dennis Antonopoulos, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, and Lynne Mussulli, a Medicare specialist, will be presenters, discussing these topics: Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses long-term medical expenses

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 12

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 11

and strategies for addressing uncovered expenses. Register for the seminar by September 23rd by contacting Karen Reiser at 508-832-5385 or Karen.reiser@edwardjones.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• Open Sky Community Services will host a free Health Fair at the Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will feature a variety of free exercise classes including Brave Yoga, Beatz Dance Studio instruction and Tai Chi with Ron Allen. Exhibitors representing different areas of health and wellness will be present: Nutritionist Michelle Mix from Hannaford, students from the Blackstone

Valley Vocational Technical High School Health Services shop, Special Olympics Massachusetts representatives and others. There will be a chili cook-off and healthy snacks. Those interested in helping out at the Health Fair are asked to contact Shannon Gwinn at 774-922-7577 or Shannon.gwinn@openskycs.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's "Back to Business" breakfast meeting with Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Maura Healey appearing as guest speaker will be held from 7:15 to 9:30 a.m. at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post, 16 S. Main St., Millbury. Go to <https://blackstonevalley.org> for more information or to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

• The Sutton Historical Society will present a Wagon and Cart Show from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Ave.

• Dudley Grange #163 will host an Apple Festival at its grounds, 139 Center Road, Dudley. Vendors are welcome. Contact Karen-Beth at 508-341-6289 to reserve a spot.

OCTOBER 8-9

• "The Battle for the Airfield WWII Re-Enactment" will take place at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson. This is a WWII living history event with over 350 re-enactors representing several branches of Allied and Axis military in two large-scale battles daily. Re-enactor encampments will be open all day for both Axis and Allied soldiers. There will also be a WWII veterans roundtable

daily in the hangar. Tank rides will be available all weekend for an additional charge. Visit www.americanheritagemuseum.org for more info.

OCTOBER 9-23

• The Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library in Douglas will conduct a fall online auction, with all proceeds going toward the Library Building Fund. The Friends are seeking donations of crafts, services, gift baskets, antiques and "what-have-you" for this event. For more information, visit mysfpl.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

• The Millbury Senior Center's Halloween Party will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Center, 1 River St. Call 508-865-9154 to RSVP.

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Vendors sought for Apple Festival

Dudley Grange #163 is seeking vendors for its annual Apple Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 on the Dudley Grange grounds at 139 Center Road in Dudley. Artisans, antique vendors and local small businesses are welcome to participate. Dudley Grange also supports nonprofit organizations that service the Dudley-Webster area. Contact Karen-Beth at 508-341-6289 to reserve a space.



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Multiple spirits haunt The Shanley Hotel in Upstate NY-1



1991.

The Shanleys were not the only ones who experienced tragedy while residing in the hotel. In 1911, Rosie, the three-year-old daughter of the house barber Peter Greger, fell down a well on the property across the street and died. She haunts the bordello area on the second floor where the Gregers resided during his employment at the hotel.

Another person who is said to haunt the establishment is a man named Alfred Volkman. Volkman was executed for murdering the local preacher's nine-year-old daughter named Helen. Both he and Helen eternally reside at

the Shanley.

Beatrice's sister, Esther Rowley Fraughman, died of influenza while pregnant. Her spirit resides in the room on the second floor, where she took her last mortal breath. The ghost of John Powers, one of Shanley's business partners, also haunts a room on the second floor.

In 1979, a man named William Blakmur died while living at the Shanley. He may also be one of the ghosts haunting the building.

Other spirits include a man named Frank, who was a bodyguard at the bordello. He met an untimely end after being shot in the hotel's pub. A ghost

named Joe and a man who whistles makes frequent appearances. Several children, the spirit of a former cook, and a cat named Sweet Thing are among the many ghosts haunting the property. Countless paranormal groups have rented the hotel for the night, hoping to come in contact with a spirit or two. They are never disappointed. Paranormal television shows have made the Shanley Hotel one of their must-do episodes. To this day, investigators and television producers continue to have the Shanley on top of their list of investigations.

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

One of the most haunted places in the Northeast resides in a small town in Upstate New York. The Shanley Hotel, located in Napanoch, has at least fourteen different spirits that come and go as they please, no matter who is there. According to researchers and investigators who have made this haunted hostel their regular ghost hunting ground, the number may be more.

Thomas Ritch erected the hotel, naming it the Mansion House in 1845 on Napanoch's Main Street. From there, the hotel changed hands several times. In 1895 a fire consumed the whole structure, but it was quickly rebuilt and open for business in no time under a new name, Colonial Hotel. James Louis Shanley purchased the property in 1906 and added an addition to the rear of the building. This wing served as a barbershop, boarding house, and later, a bordello. Shanley also added secret rooms during Prohibition to hide contraband and escape tunnels

in the cellar to hide from authorities. Shanley married Beatrice Rowley in 1910. The couple was well known and respected by many prominent and influential people of the day. Thomas Edison was a regular at the Shanley, becoming friends with the owners. Beatrice became close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, who often visited the Shanley. In fact, the Roosevelts cleared Shanley's name when he was charged with selling alcohol during Prohibition. A room was later named in Roosevelt's honor.

The couple had three children, but unfortunately, all three died before one year old. Kathleen died at only five months, twenty-four days old. James Jr. died at four months, eleven days, and William passed away nine months and ten days after birth. James senior passed away on August 26, 1937. Beatrice found the hotel too much for her to keep up alone, and in 1944, she sold it to Allen Hazen. It would change owners several more times before becoming abandoned in

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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Still a puppy—Luke goes on his first vacation

BY AMY LECLAIRE

Luke's first vacation was everything expected—and then some. He sniffed out the plan on a morning that stated the obvious. Luggage piled up in the kitchen. His parents moved with a distinct haste. Something wasn't adding up. "Is my family leaving me?"

A month prior, my husband had considered just

and Luke can come, too!" He grabbed his stuffed avocado to share in the joy that would be his first vacation. "Seriously? You're bringing me?" He wiggled around the kitchen, his six-month-old frame resembling a small dog or a stocky puppy, depending on one's perspective. "Hold on. I just have to go pee-pee!" His disposition favored the latter. He dashed to the backyard and returned to the garage in record speed.

Of all the dogs I've owned, Luke has been my easiest travel companion. This trip proved no exception. He sat regally in his

Suite Hotel of South Burlington, Vermont sat tucked away in a parking lot surrounded by gladiolas and plush shrubbery. "We're here!" As dogs do, Luke sensed our arrival before I stated it. Still, he awakened with a slowness that has led to one of many nicknames.

"Lazy Luke – we're here. Let's go check out the hotel." I unzipped the door of his bed while he retracted so that I couldn't quite reach him, a habit reminding me the day we picked him out of a litter of three males. "That's him." I knew Luke before I actually knew him. He was the bashful pup in the back of the hatchback, buried in the warmth of his brother.

After a moment of pause, I managed to coax Lazy Luke from the car before — nose to ground — he obsessed on new scents in the parking lot. The hotel's front entrance boasted a set of secure (and massive) doors. "Who opened that door???" Spooked by the doors' automation, Luke put on his puppy brakes. "This place is possessed!" Making matters worse, a staff worker maneuvered an enormous, screeching dolly on wheels into the same area. "Something is definitely wrong with this place!"

The incident reminded me of a Scooby Doo episode, wherein I played Shaggy and my frightened pup was about to jump up into my arms. His legs wobbled like a camel's while I led him to a comfortable living room section, and my husband tackled check-in details. I pet my pup's head and spoke to him with the reassurance of a caring Dog Momma. "This is such a nice place, Luke." I cupped his frightened face in my hands and couldn't believe what I saw. My pup's entire head shivered as though he were seated in a freezer. "Oh, Luke. I promise it's going to be okay." Worse, his teeth chattered. "Poor thing. He's unsure. Still a puppy." A sweet elderly couple offered condolence.

We made our way up the elevator (another possessed door?) and Luke loosened up upon sight of a suite he couldn't help but fall in love with. "A sofa! And pillows! And beds!" He raced from room to room. "There's even a toilet here!" Room 225 was making sense. "Let's play!" He grabbed his



Luke, "the cutest puppy ever," settles in at the Green Mountain Suites in Vermont for his first vacation, and spends time with mom in Burlington, shopping.



that. "Why don't we find someone to watch Luke? We'll be able to do more. We deserve a vacation."

We would have. We did. Yet there wasn't a destination out there comparable to the look on my pup's face when we shared the news. "We're going to Vermont

travel crate with his head lifted out of a "sun roof" created by unzipping the top (nylon) section. Now tall enough to look out the car windows, he appeared a dog dressed in a jack-in-the-box costume. Then he curled up and went to sleep. The Green Mountain

avocado and thrashed about the room. We relaxed, unpacked and enjoyed a night out on the town. Little did we know, Luke's skepticism would return.

"Woo, woo, woo, woo, woo!" My husband and I snapped awake. The digital clock read 12:30 a.m. when Luke learned something new. Hotels are full of people who make creaky noises on the other side of the walls. "Luke, you have to go to sleep." We were so grateful for the Green Mountain's Suite's acceptance of our pup. We wanted to respect the privacy of other sleepers.

We hauled his bed, a plush dog mattress, to the foot of our bed. "Come sleep with us, Luke." Satisfied, he slept soundly through the night and even waited for us to get up before we all had breakfast at the hotel's outdoor courtyard.

"Can I pet your puppy?"

The question had a domino effect all week long. Luke greeted family after family. He posed for picture after picture, and accepted compliment after compliment with the grace of a movie star. "That is the cutest puppy I've ever seen!" Outdoor restaurants became a venue for his social circle. Servers brought him bowls of water "Does he want some ice to go with that?" Burlington, VT was as delightful as it was dog friendly. Shoppers put their bags down to kneel beside our puppy on vacation. "I love his crimped hair!" Hikers stopped hiking. "Luke

Valentino has his own Instagram page?" Luke became the talk of a town that wine and dined him. The vacation was a score, yet as Luke was about to remind us, it wasn't home.

We had gone for a stroll one morning, and approached the sidewalk of the front hotel lot when Luke stopped in his tracks. "What's the matter, Luke?" Then I saw what he saw, and watched what he watched. Doors slammed. Parents unloaded bags. Children bickered. A new family had just arrived at the hotel and their van seemed suspiciously open to cute puppies. "I knew I shouldn't have dug up the grass on Daddy's lawn!" Luke did the math. "I can't look at them. Please don't leave me with that family." He pulled me to the shelter of a shrub while I pondered his worry. On the day we took him from the breeder, we had also been in a parking lot. He was almost eight weeks when we had carried him in a basket from the trunk of our breeder's vehicle to our own backseat. He sat up during the car ride, but was uncertain of his new family (us) and home at first. "Where are you bringing me? Where are my brothers? Whoa. The outdoors is so big." He dashed straight for the comfort of his dog crate when we brought him inside our home.

Fast-forward six months. Luke has developed an obvious trust for us and now adores his home. He loves to sit out on the front steps, curl up to sleep beneath the

kitchen table, and engage us in a game of "chase" across the kitchen floor, where he finally takes a flying leap over the step-down and into the family room.

Had Luke, as he studied this family unloading their van, subconsciously recalled the day he was taken from his puppy brothers? The vehicle sights and sounds were similar. Or do all dogs, like pups from a 101 Dalmatian's film, carry an innate fear of being taken away in a van by the Cruella Deville's of the world?

I knelt by my pup's side. We've known each other for only six months, yet it seemed as though we've been connected for centuries. He snuck glances over to the family; then stared back up at me. "I just want to stay with you." He licked my full mouth and chin. I wish I could pick him up and flatten him to my chest the way I used to, but he's too big. Instead, I massage the soft fur behind his ears. "You're stuck with me, Luke Valentino."

Our ride home was smooth, though it felt long. After a fun-filled vacation, we all just wanted to be home. When we finally pulled into the driveway, one thought crossed my mind.

The grass is greener where you dig it.

Stay tuned for more on *Living with Luke*. Tell me your dog story. Write me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Follow Luke on Instagram: [instagram.com/livingwithlukevalentino](https://www.instagram.com/livingwithlukevalentino)

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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aaanortheast.com



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. My daughter owns a 2009 Pontiac Vibe GT with AWD and keeps it well maintained. As Pontiac is no longer in business, getting certain parts can be problematic. Her mechanic has indicated her motor mounts are wearing out but cannot find a source of Pontiac Vibe replacements. As the Vibe is a close cousin to a Toyota Matrix, could motor mounts for a Toyota Matrix be used. Should she consider taking the car directly to Toyota, or quietly recommend to her mechanic the potential alternate? The car only has 115,000 miles on it and is generally in great condition.

A. You are correct that the Pontiac Vibe and the Toyota Matrix are nearly identical cars except for the interior and sheet metal. In fact, these cars were built side by side in the same assembly plant. Based on this I would say the Toyota motor mounts should be an exact fit. Also, I would check online. A quick check of both CARiD and RockAuto shows the motor mounts are in stock and are the same part number for the Vibe and Matrix. I would chat with the mechanic and ask if they would be willing to install the parts needed if she purchased them.

Q. I bought a 2021 VW Arteon sedan service loaner with 6,000 miles. The car runs great but various systems such as navigation display, radio, lane assist, traffic sign recognition and more were regularly not working sporadically until 10,000 miles and then all of a sudden everything worked flawlessly. Now at 17,000 miles with zero issues. I heard of VW's problem with their software recently. Any thoughts on why I experienced these tech issues?

A. Just like phones and computers cars have both software and firmware updates. Depending on the vehicle, some of these updates are performed while the car is in for service, and some are over the air updates. VW did have an update of its Wi-Fi module and interesting that it noted that updating the module would "permit future functionality of Over the Air (OTA) updating of various control modules."

Q. I have a 2017 Ford Edge that I purchased from Hertz in 2019 that had 31,273 miles and was inspected by a AAA Approved Repair Shop before purchase. It has been properly maintained during my time as owner. Everything was fine until car reached 64,930 miles in April which was 4,930 miles over warranty, the check engine light came on. The code showed an engine misfire and at that time all ignition coils and spark plugs were replaced by an independent repair shop. Within days light came on again and further diagnostic testing showed misfiring in a single

cylinder. After a couple of attempts, the coils were replaced with Ford parts. This went on for weeks until repair shop suggested I call Ford. Over the phone the Ford Service Advisor immediately diagnosed the issue as coolant contamination into the cylinders (evidently, they'd seen it before). I brought vehicle to a Ford Service Center and their diagnostic testing confirmed what the Service Advisor told me over the phone and that I would need a new engine. After doing some research this seems to be a fairly common issue with the Edge 2.0L Eco-Boost engine after reaching 60,000-70,000 miles. Seems to me a 5-year-old, well maintained engine that needs to be replaced would be a sign of a manufacture defect, especially when Ford has issued at least 7 Technician Service Bulletins pertaining to this very issue since 2018, the most recent dated 6/10/22, and all recommending long block replacement. At what point would the NHTSA get involved with a possible recall?

A. This engine as well as the smaller 1.5-liter engine found in the Escape has been prone to several engine issues. So far to my knowledge Ford is only repairing these engines under the standard warranty. You are certainly correct, you would expect a properly maintained engine to last at least 200,000 miles, not 65,000 miles. Regarding a NHTSA recall although the engine misfires, apparently it doesn't fit into the category of a safety recall. In other words, the car doesn't break down at highway speeds causing a potential crash. That

be said I would still file a complaint with NHTSA. I would also consider taking Ford to court under a warranty of merchantability. A warranty of merchantability is a type of warranty that asserts that the goods are reasonably fit for its ordinary and intended purpose for which they are sold. Now I'm hardly an attorney but, to me it seems like an engine that fails this early is not living up to its intended purpose.

Q. I have a 10-year-old GMC Yukon and the dome-light doesn't work. Thinking it would be a bad bulb, I replaced it and it still didn't work. I then checked all the fuses under the hood, and they all tested fine. To me that only leaves a wiring problem. Is there a known area that the wiring fails that you can share?

A. I think you were on the right track with the fuses, but you had the wrong location. Like many vehicles there is more than one fuse box. There is a 10-ampere fuse for the dome light in the fuse panel at the instrument panel. It is always time well spent to check every fuse in a vehicle if you don't have a wiring diagram.

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, [mrjohnfpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnfpaul).

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REAL ESTATE

Why today's real estate market isn't headed for a crash



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Whether or not you owned a home in 2008, you likely re-

member the housing crash back then. And news about an economic slowdown happening today may bring all those concerns back in your mind. While those feelings are understandable, data can help reassure you the situation today is nothing like it was in 2008.

One of the key reasons why the market won't crash this time is the current lack of inventory. Housing supply comes from three key places: Current homeowners putting their homes up for sale.

Newly built homes coming onto the market and distressed properties (short sales or foreclosures).

For the market to crash, you would have to make a case for an oversupply of inventory headed to the market, and the numbers don't support that right now. So, here's a deeper look at where inventory is coming from today to help prove why the housing market isn't headed for a crash.

1. CURRENT HOMEOWNERS PUTTING THEIR HOMES UP

FOR SALE.

Even though housing supply is increasing this year, there's still a limited number of existing homes available. Based on the latest weekly data, inventory is up 27.8% compared to the same week last year. But compared to the same week in 2019, it's still down by 42.6%.

So, what does this mean? Inventory is still historically low. There simply aren't enough homes on the market to cause prices to crash. There would need to be a flood of people getting ready to sell their houses in order to tip the scales toward a buyers' market. And that level of activity simply isn't there.

2. NEWLY BUILT HOMES COMING ONTO THE MARKET.

There's also a lot of talk about what's happening with newly built homes today, and that may make you wonder if we're overbuilding. But home



builders are actually slowing down their production right now. To avoid repeating the overbuilding that happened leading up to the housing crisis, builders are reacting to higher mortgage rates and softening buyer demand by slowing

down their work. It's a sign they're being intentional about not overbuilding homes like they did during the bubble. And according to the latest data from the U.S. Census, at today's current pace, we are headed to build an annual rate of about 1.4 million homes this year. This will add more inventory to the market, but it's not on pace to create an oversupply because builders today are more cautious than the last time when they built more homes than the market could absorb.

3. DISTRESSED PROPERTIES (SHORT SALES OR FORECLOSURES).

The last place inventory can come from is distressed properties, including short sales and foreclosures. Back in the housing crisis, there was a flood of foreclosures due to lending standards that allowed many people to secure a home loan they couldn't truly afford. Today, lending standards are much tighter, resulting in more qualified buyers and far fewer foreclosures. The time around the housing crash there were over one million foreclosure filings per year. As lending standards change/tightened since then, the activity started to decline. And in 2020 and 2021, the forbearance program was a further aid to help prevent a repeat of the wave of foreclosures we saw back around 2008.

That program was a game changer, giving homeowners options for things like loan deferrals and modifications they didn't have before. And data on the success of that program shows four out of five homeowners coming out of forbearance are either paid in full or have worked out a repayment plan to avoid foreclosure. These are a few of the biggest reasons there won't be a wave of foreclosures coming to the market.

Lastly, although housing supply is growing this year, the market certainly isn't anywhere near the inventory levels that would cause prices to drop significantly. That's why inventory tells us the housing market won't crash. Looking to buy or sell, reach out to the Marzeotti Group Team or a trusted realtor!

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Bates Grove Rd	Jackson Rd	Birchwood Dr	Nancy Dr
Bath House Rd	June Ave	Chestnut Dr	Oakwood Dr
Bay View Rd	Kenneth Ave	Concord Ct	Pinehurst Dr
Black Point Rd	Lillian Ave	Cudworth Rd	Pinewood Dr
Bonnette St	Little Island	Deerfield Dr	Stockbridge St
Brian Ave	Long Is	Edward St	Tanner Rd
Cedar Point Rd	Loveland Rd	Ellen St	Town Forest Rd
Cobble Is	McGovern Ln	Goya Dr	Victoria Dr
Colonial Rd	Pattison Rd	Hugo Ter	Viking Rd
Elaine St	Point Breeze Rd	Kingsbury Rd	

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Carousel Way	Kate Ln	Sandy Cove Rd	Browns Brook Rd	Lepine Dr
Chestnut Hill Dr	Killdeer Rd	Shawn Ln	Cardin Dr	Mikes Way
Cross Ct	Kingsbury Shore Rd	South Shore Rd	Community Rd	Old Douglas Rd
Evergreen Dr	Minebrook Rd	Sutton Rd	Douglas Rd	Reid Smith Cove Rd
Fairfield St	Montclair Ave	West Point Rd	Dream St	Skyview Ln
Fort Hill Rd	Nicholas Cir	Blueberry HI	Florence Dr	Sylvester Dr
				Upper Gore Rd

Sunday, September 25 - Free admission for residents of:

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Cooper Rd	Mark Ave	Wawela Park Rd	Dominique Dr	Panarelli Way
Hall Rd	Matte Ln	Westwind Dr	Freeman Ave	Pine Ridge Rd
Henry Rd	Oakmont Dr	Anthony St	Henry St	Pit Ct
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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**

SPORTS

Adam Urato looks to lead Bartlett on the golf course

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Coming into the fall golf season, first year Bartlett High School Coach Alex Hetherman knows that he has himself a solid athlete in Adam Urato, but at this time he is not fully sure what he actually has in the sophomore on the golf course and to what extent.

The second year Bartlett athlete began playing golf at the age of five at the urging of his father.

“My dad was into golf and thought that it would be a good idea for me to try the sport,” Urato said. Once I picked up the clubs I found it to my liking and have been doing it ever since. Golf is an individual game where I can be by myself while relying on my capabilities, not just physically but mentally.”

Although the Bartlett sophomore doesn't recall all that much about when he first started playing the game, he has been told that he picked up the game rather quickly. At 10 he began playing in New England Pro Golf Association (NEPGA) tournaments

and while things may have started off rough in the beginning because of his nerves he has gotten better thought the years the more he has played.

“In the early stages of playing NEPGA I was hitting the ball late and it was going all over the place; I needed to focus on getting around on the ball. I would get down on myself and that only made it worse, he said. “I have been playing baseball longer than golf, so I was hitting the ball like I was playing baseball. I started to improve my game by keeping my club square to the ball.”

Not only did the adjustments in his mechanics greatly help, Urato also got into the mindset that each shot was his last and eventually that also helped his game. He may not have been winning at the beginning, but he soon realized that focusing on himself and his game was much more important than what everyone else around him was doing.

Last fall as he entered the high school he was looking forward to playing golf with kids around his own age, but when tryouts came



he found the nervousness return.

“I was definitely nervous, but I soon realized that I was one of the better golfers on the course and that I could help the team,” Urato recalls.

As a freshman last year, he was slated to play as the Indians' number two golfer and that seemed to originally put a lot of pressure on the young athlete. Luckily for Urato his very first high school match was on a course (Blackstone National Golf Club) that he was very familiar with, and

the nerves went flying out the window.

Urato averaged around a 44 last fall on the courses, most of which he had never played on before. Not knowing a lot about the courses he was to play on, many very difficult in his mind, attributed to his inability on the greens and accounted for his mid 40's score.

As he gets ready to step on the courses for his second year he not only has confidence in his ability to take command of them, but he is also looking to be

once again playing at the number two position, with the possibility of even taking control of the top spot.

“I am just going to go out and play my hardest while trying my best while focusing on myself and hopefully that'll be enough to lower my average down to around a 42,” Urato said.

The sophomore is also going to take a different approach to his game this year, he is hoping to play smart with no more going for the risky shots and he definitely wants to stay away from the three shot

putts.

“When I miss a putt that I think that I should have gotten it only makes things worse,” he said. “I was not a real good putter last year, so I worked on that aspect of my game extremely hard this summer to improve.”

As the season gets underway Urato is hoping that he can help Bartlett win more matches than they did last fall, while still having fun on the course; hoping that it doesn't have any affect for his love of the game.

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

When should you adjust your investment risk?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

There are no shortcuts to investment success. You need to establish a long-term strategy and stick with it. This means you'll want to create an investment mix based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon—and then regularly review it to ensure it's still meeting your needs.

In fact, investing for the long term doesn't necessarily mean you should lock your investments in forever. Throughout your life, you'll likely need to make some changes.

Of course, everyone's situation is different—there's no prescribed formula of

when and how you should adjust your investments. But some possibilities may be worth considering.

For example, a few years before you retire, you might want to re-evaluate your risk exposure and consider moving part of your portfolio into a more conservative position. When you were decades away from retiring, you may have felt more comfortable with a more aggressive positioning because you had time to bounce back from any market downturns. But as you near retirement, it may make sense to lower your risk level. And as part of a move toward a more conservative approach, you also may want to evaluate the cash positions in your portfolio. When the market has gone through a decline, as has been the case in 2022, you may not want to tap into your portfolio to meet short-term and emergency needs, so having sufficient cash on hand is important. Keep in mind thought that

having too much cash on the sidelines may affect your ability to reach your long-term goals.

Even if you decide to adopt a more conservative investment position before you retire, though, you may still benefit from some growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to help keep ahead of—or at least keep pace with—inflation. As you know, inflation has surged in 2022, but even when it's relatively high, it can significantly erode your purchase power or.

Changes in our own goals or circumstances may also lead you to modify your investment mix. You might decide to retire earlier or later than you originally planned. You might even change your plans for the type of retirement you want, choosing to work part-time for a few years. Your family situation may change—perhaps you have another child for whom you'd like to save and investment for college. Any

of these events could lead you to review your portfolio to find new opportunities or to adjust your risk level—or both.

You might wonder if you should also consider changes in your investment mix in response to external forces, such as higher interest rates or a rise in inflation, as we've seen this year. It's certainly true that these types of events can affect parts of your portfolio, but it may not be advisable to react by shuffling your investment mix. After all, nobody can really predict how long these forces will keep their momentum—it's a possibility, for instance, that inflation will have subsided noticeably within a year. But more important, you should make investment moves based on the factors we've already discussed: your goals, risk tolerance, time horizon and individual circumstances.

By reviewing your portfolio regularly, possibly with the assistance of a

financial professional, you can help ensure your investment mix will always be appropriate to your needs and goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for your

Edward Jones financial advisor. Contact Dennis Antonopoulos at 5 Albert St., Auburn, by telephone at 508-832-5385 or by email at dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

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CHIEF'S CORNER

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The Rules of the Road

BY CHIEF
STEVEN J. WOJNAR
DUDLEY POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Rules of the road are always popular questions for me. One consistent topic is the proper use of turn signals. Many express frustrations at driver's who fail to use these when necessary. I was asked if I could provide some information for readers on this subject.

The use of turn signals is contained in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 Section 14B. It states in part, "Every person operating a motor vehicle, before stopping said vehicle or making any turning movement which would affect the operation of any other vehicle, shall give a plainly visible signal by activating the brake lights or directional lights or signal as provided on said vehicle..." A violation of this law car-

ries a \$25 civil fine. The key phrase in this part of the law is "affect the operation of another vehicle." This would imply a signal would be unnecessary if other vehicles are not on the road. As an example, if you are driving home at 4 am and there are no other vehicles on the road, it would not be necessary to activate your turn signal prior to entering your driveway. Although this can occur, it is a good practice to use signals whenever you are turning, regardless of the conditions. Whenever other vehicles that may be affected by your turn are present, the rule of signaling applies.

If signals or brake lights are not functioning or if they are not present on a vehicle for some reason, the operator is to use hand signals. These are described in the following way: "An intention to turn to the left shall be indicated by hand and arm extended horizontally, an

intention to turn to the right shall be indicated by hand and arm extended upward, and an intention to stop or decrease speed shall be indicated by hand and arm extended downward." Since most of us only used these during our initial driver training, they are often ignored or forgotten. These are still legal, useful, and important.

The decision to use turn signals really should not be based on whether there are other travelers on the road. People should train themselves to use them whenever they are making a turn or changing lanes. It is always better to exercise caution. Without your immediate knowledge, a vehicle could be exiting a parking lot or driveway. They may see you before you notice them. You have a greater chance of avoiding a collision when turn signals are used. There is no harm in using them.

The important thing to remember is fewer accidents and injuries can occur if signals are used at the appropriate times.

For those still seeking vaccination 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, 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.

Open Sky Community Services to Host Health Fair at Alternatives Whitin Mill

Open Sky Community Services invites the community to a free Health Fair at the Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd. in Whitinsville on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The fair will feature a variety of free exercise classes including classes from Brave Yoga, Beatz Dance Studio and Tai Chi with Ron Allen. There will be exhibitors representing different areas of health and wellness including Nutritionist Michelle Mix from Hannaford, students from the Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical High School Health Services Massachusetts and many more! In addition, there will be a Chili Cook Off and healthy snacks.

This free event is open to anyone in the community and is a great opportunity for school groups, families, and senior citizens. We are still accepting vendors for the health fair. If interested, please contact Shannon Gwinn at (774) 922-7577 or Shannon.gwinn@open-skycs.org.

What: Community Health Fair
Who: Hosted by Open Sky Community Services. Open to anyone in the community. Dozens of local health and wellness vendors will be present.
Where: Alternatives' Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd. Whitinsville, MA
When: Wednesday, September 28th, 2022, 10AM-4PM.
Cost: Free!

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September Happenings @ Charlton Public Library

Visit our website (charltonlibrary.org) for a full listing of programs and events.

PROGRAMS FOR BIG KIDS

Movies @ The Library, All showings are Tuesdays at 1:00 & 5:30 in Dexter Hall. No registration.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 -

DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA starring Michelle Dockery. The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa. 2022; PG; 2hrs 4min.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 -

DR. STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Doctor Strange teams up with a mysterious teenage girl from his dreams who can travel across multiverses, to battle multiple threats, including other-universe versions of himself, which threaten to wipe out millions across the multiverse. They seek help from Wanda the Scarlet Witch, Wong and others. 2022; PG-13; 2 hrs 6 min.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 -

A MAN CALLED OVE starring Rolf Lassgard. Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbors.

2015; PG-13; 1 hr 56 min.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 -

TOP GUN: MAVERICK starring Tom Cruise and Jennifer Connelly. After more than thirty years of service as one of the Navy's top aviators, Pete Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. 2022; PG-13; 2 hrs 10 min.

SILVER NEEDLES KNITTING GROUP

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room
Bring your current project and relax with friends while taking in the view in the upstairs reading room. All are welcome, regardless of skill level; no registration required.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Thursday, September 1, 6:30-7:45 - Community Meeting Room
The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy and local history. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 to share our research or learn from others. All are welcome; registration is not required.

BOOK DISCUSSION - ETERNAL BY LISA SCOTTOLINE

Thursday, September 8, 6:30-7:30 in the Local History Room (and via Zoom)
If you have read this book and want

to take part in the discussion please join us! If you want to sit and listen, that's fine too! All are welcome to join us. The group meets in person in the Local History Room. If you prefer to participate remotely via Zoom, the link is on our event calendar (charltonlibrary.org).

COMMUNITY YOGA CLASS WITH LINDA DAVIS

Saturday, September 17, 8:30 - 9:30 - Maynard Field
Join local instructor, Linda Davis, for a free monthly community yoga class. All ages and levels are welcome. Children under age 5 must have a caregiver with them at all times. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- MARK MANDEVILLE & RAIANNE RICHARDS

Thursday, September 22, 6:30 - 7:30 - Dexter Hall
Join us for the final performance in our Summer Music Series as we host local musicians Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards. Accompanying themselves on guitar, harmonica, ukulele, penny whistle, electric bass, and most uniquely clarinet, their live performances are both musically captivating and spiritually uplifting as audiences are carefully balanced between serious songs and humorous

commentary – concert goers will leave feeling a bit more human, as if they have experienced something genuine.

CULE- CHARLTON UKULELE LEAGUE & ENSEMBLE

Thursday, September 22, 6:00-8:00 - Community Meeting Room

This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your own level of achievement. Making music together is the perfect antidote to the feeling that you will never be able to play music. You can! What's more you'll enjoy the company of others. Any questions? Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com

SPECIAL FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION - CYCLE OF MEMORY

Thursday, September 29, 6:00 - Dexter Hall
Join Dementia Friendly Charlton for a special screening of Cycle of Memory: the new award-winning documentary about two siblings' bicycle adventure to find the memories their grandfather lost to Alzheimer's. The film is 72 minutes long and will be followed by a Q+A with filmmaker Alex Leff. This program is presented by Dementia Friendly Charlton, and is supported

in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS/TEENS

DROP-IN LEGO CLUB

Fridays, 3:00-4:30 - Children's Room
Join your friends and build a Lego creation! Try out our weekly challenge or make up your own design. Best for ages 5 -12. Lego creations must remain at the library, but may be displayed until the next class. This is a drop-in program. Registration is not required. Parents/Guardians are responsible for monitoring their children while they are in the room. A staff member or teen volunteer may be present, but the program is not facilitated by an instructor.

STORYTIME

Storytimes for ages 0-5 begin the week of September 12. Check our event calendar for details on days, times and registration information.

TWEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, September 13, 6:00-6:45 pm - Story Time Room
Do you love graphic novels? Join us to talk about why we love these books and do some fun activities! Best for ages 9-13. Read the book before the meeting so we can talk

about it! We have two choices for this month: MIGHTY JACK by Ben Hatke and KATIE THE CATSITTER by Colleen Venable. Pick up a copy of your choice (or read both!) at the Children's Circulation Desk. Registration is required.

TEEN CRAFT NIGHT & ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Saturday, September 10, 10:00-11:00 - Community Meeting Room
Tuesday, September 20, August 18, 5:00-5:45 - Community Meeting Room

Meet up to discuss Teen Programming for the Library, make a craft, and earn an hour of community service! For grades 5-12. Did we mention there will be snacks?! Registration is required.

PRE-K YOGA WITH LINDA DAVIS

Wednesday, September 15, 11:15-11:45 - Dexter Hall
For ages 2.5-5 years old. Caregivers must be present during class. Please have children wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Registration is required.

MIDDLE-GRADE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, September 22, 6:30-7:15 - Story Time Room
For those in grades 5-8. Join us for a discussion of FACELESS by Kathryn Lasky. Books are available at the Children's Circulation Desk. Registration is required.

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