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Zap 50 in South Grafton: Members of the Grafton Garden Club and Grafton Land Trust with signage marking the occasion of the 50th-anniversary cleanup.

Watershed warriors tackle 50th-anniversary Zap cleanup

BY ROD LEE

The river is a lot cleaner now. “When I was growing up in the ’70s you couldn’t go near it,” Ken Bedard of Millbury said. “Now I fish for bass.”

Mr. Bedard was standing with Ray Longvall at the edge of the parking lot outside the River Bend

Farm Visitor Center in Uxbridge on the morning of August 27th. They were handing out trash bags and other supplies to people participating in a 50th anniversary re-enactment of the “Zap the Blackstone” cleanup of the river that took place in 1972.

Described as “the largest single-day environmental cleanup in

American history,” the original Zap utilized the services of 10,000 volunteers to pull all sort of debris from the Blackstone River.

This year’s effort was nowhere near that large in scope, in Rhode Island or Massachusetts. This

ZAP

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Skills Park adds exciting new dimension to West Hill Dam

BY ROD LEE

Long a popular recreational area in the town of Uxbridge and the Blackstone Valley, West Hill Dam recently took on a new role as well with creation of a Skills Park by the local chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA).

“We have been developing trails, working with park rangers, setting up an amazing network of trails,” Brian Belfer, president of the Blackstone Valley chapter of the NEMBA, said. “More recently we have

been working with them to come up with a proposal to build a Skills Park. There are a handful around. We have created a unique blend of courses right in the middle of West Hill Dam. We are in the last stages of Phase 1.”

The Skills Park was officially scheduled to open on Sunday, August 21st at 9:00 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony sched-

uled for 10:00 a.m. According to the NEMBA there would be music, contests and snacks at the unveiling.



Riders’ proficiency will be put to the test at the Blackstone Valley chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association’s new Skills Park at West Hill Dam in Uxbridge. The Skills Park was achieved entirely with volunteer labor.

A host of partners have been engaged to bring the Skills Park from an idea to reality, Mr. Belfer said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been instrumental in the buildout. Koopman Lumber, the Uxbridge Police Department, UniBank and private donors all

SKILLS PARK

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ZAP

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Bonnie Combs blames on “unfortunate timing,” coming as summer vacations wind down and just before the Labor Day weekend. Ms. Combs is marketing director for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Mr. Bedard agreed. “We’ll take what we can get,” he said, of the numbers who chose to lend assistance this time around.

“We’re sending them to Plummer’s Landing and Lookout Rock,” he said.

“I’m a Board member of Zap and on the steering committee of Zap, and I am on the Board of Directors of the Blackstone River Watershed Association (BRWA),” Mr. Bedard said.

Mr. Longvall is with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

“I help coordinate DCR farm events,” Mr. Longvall said.

They pointed to what was

happening on August 27th as “a cleanup and a green-up” of the entire watershed, which is essentially all of the land that drains into the Blackstone.

Ms. Combs had previously predicted in a conversation with the Blackstone Valley Xpress that the biggest turnout for Zap 50 would occur in the town of Grafton. She was right. Working in collaboration, the Grafton Garden Club and the Grafton Land Trust put out an early call for residents to help collect trash along local waterways that feed into the Blackstone: in South Grafton alone, where representatives of the two organizations were gathered at the former Fisherville Mill on the 27th, these include Cronin Brook, Big Bummet Brook and Bummet Brook, Axtel Brook, Quinsigamond River, Miscoe Brook, Bruce’s Brook, Flagg Brook and McNamara Brook.

“Grafton is super energetic about this,” Ms. Combs said. “They are go-



Clockwise from above: Zap 50 in Whitinsville: Julie Blair, Bo Daley and Katie Mitchell hand out cleaning supplies at the Whitinsville Plaza. All are members of the Rotary Club of the Blackstone Valley; Zap 50 in Northbridge: Lyndsay Kelly and Catherine Fianna with Tommy Morin from the Department of Conservation and Recreation; Zap 50 in Uxbridge: Ken Bedard, right, and Ray Longvall coordinated cleanup efforts from the River Bend Farm Visitor Center; Zap 50 in Rockdale: Bill Morris and Laura Hutchinson pick up debris along the railroad tracks.



ing to blow me away” with their effort.

Talking about Grafton’s role on the 27th, Helen Rawinski Blazis, who grew up in South Grafton, said “you drive by and you wouldn’t see” evidence of the need for the cleanup, “but the river knows.

“As a kid I remember what it was like. The river was pink and purple and there was all the suds. When I saw osprey, I knew the river was back; and this morning we saw a bald eagle!”

Ms. Blazis said her mother “got to write a book,” entitled “Zosia: Immigration and Industry along the Blackstone River,” the book is named after Ms. Blazis’s grandmother. It provides impetus for a re-enactment and power-point presentation she offers to the public, including one coming up on September 15th at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury Center. The event is free. It starts at 7:00 p.m.

A celebration of the 50th anniversary of Zap the Blackstone—dubbed “The Great 2022 Blackstone River Revival Zap 50,” will be held at the Slater Mill Historic Park in Pawtucket on Saturday, September 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Blazis will be there.

She is pleased that today’s Blackstone is something to be proud of, that people can fish in, paddle on, hike and bike along.

“It’s a Class B river now,” she says. Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as



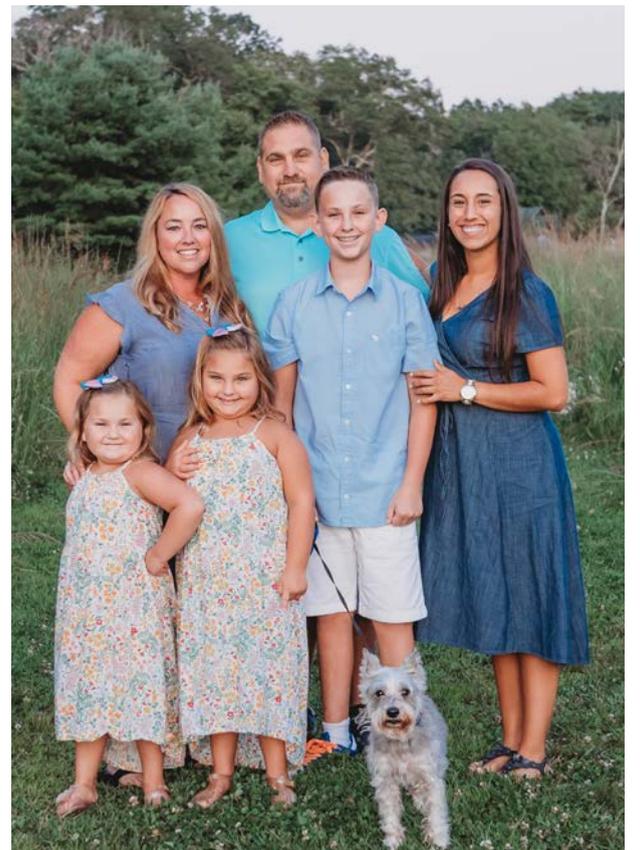
involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It

Business spotlight

allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Sutton, Millbury and Grafton in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers' Resellables store also donates items to the Grafton Flea Market, where Jason has been a lifelong patron.



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the

chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

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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. DerMugrditch-

ian, 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 af-

ternoon 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

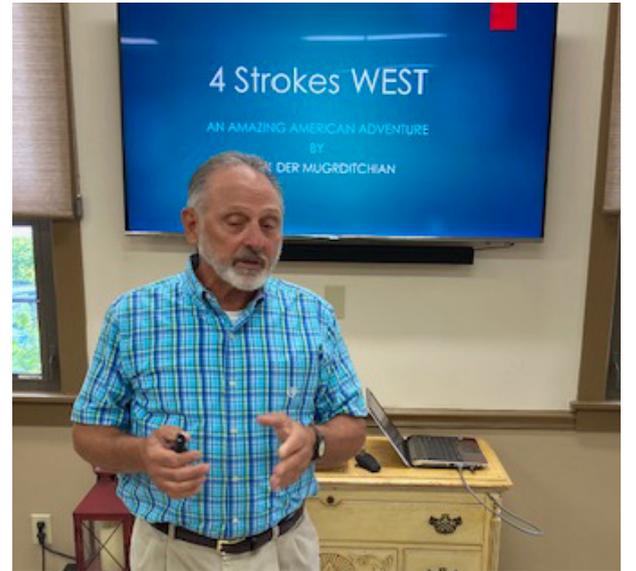
country on their Honda CB 360 T motorcycles.

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



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

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.

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SKILLS PARK

continued from page 1

had a hand in furthering the project along. A NEMBA Signature Trails Grant gave the initiative a



big financial boost.

Mr. Belfer pointed out that the Uxbridge location is within a reasonable distance to lots of friends of the NEMBA who belong to nearby chapters of the organization.

"The Skills Park is completely free," Mr. Belfer said, with "manmade structures and obstacles to help mountain bikers test their ability." There are wooden, rock and dirt features "and next year we will adding a kids pump track with little up and down hills." Phase 2 will involve installation of a dirt pump track, in the spring.

Already, "people are there pretty much every day," he said.

Best of all, the Skills Park is suitable for everyone from "kids on strider bikes to event-level mountain bikers."

The original proposal was for the Skills Park to open in early 2020. "We have been working on the concept since the beginning of the year," Mr. Belfer said. "It's all done with volunteer labor."

He described the work involved as "a labor of love."

Without the support of the NEMBA, the project would not have been pos-

sible, he noted. "Volunteers have come out twice a week to donate their time to help build a park that we should all be proud of."

In a statement, the NEMBA said "one of the

best riding areas in the region is getting better.

While most people think that skills parks are for kids, nothing could be further from the truth. Skills parks are for everyone."

Riders who use the park do not have to be members of the NEMBA.

Set on Hartford Ave. E. in Uxbridge, West Hill Dam offers a wide range of activities, including picnicking, fishing, swimming, volleyball, horseshoes, a playground, hunting for small game and bird watching. Over seven miles of hiking and mountain bike trails meander through woodlands and grasslands, providing secluded views of the West River.

Mr. Belfer pointed out that while there are skills parks throughout New England, like one in Allston that is "more of a paved structure," and others in the

Merrimack Valley, Chelmsford and elsewhere, the West Hill Dam skills park is designed as a resource

for all mountain biking enthusiasts.

For more information, visit www.nemba.org.

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Prior to her election as AG, she served as a business lawyer at Wilmer Hale, before joining the Attorney General's Office as chief of the Civil Rights Division. There, she led the first state challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act and stood up to the banks that took advantage of Massachusetts homeowners during the mortgage crisis.

As Attorney General, Healey has protected student borrowers and homeowners from predatory lenders, sued Exxon Mobil for lying about climate change, and held Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family accountable for their role in fueling the opioid epidemic. Her office has saved taxpayers more than \$7 billion and \$4.5 billion in energy costs by taking on the utility companies.

She's the oldest of five children raised by their mother, a school nurse, in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, and she played basketball professionally in Austria after graduating from Harvard.

Register at www.blackstonevalley.org/events

Questions? Contact Liz O'Neil at lonell@blackstonevalley.org

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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.

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Women and a network add up to a recipe for success

BY ROD LEE

Individually, Alise Breton, Pat Baker, Carol Dauphinais, Heather Elster, Pat Hurton and other members of the executive committee of the Women's Success Network are an impressive lot.

Collectively, in pursuing the mission set out when the organization was founded with a push from Jeannie Hebert half a dozen or so years ago, they are a powerful tool for networking and a dynamic force for good in the community.

All are accomplished professionals in their own right.

Ms. Breton, who chairs the group, is vice president-retail director/social media manager with Millbury Federal Credit Union (MCU)—and a rising under-40 star. Ms. Baker is a senior vice president and operations administrator with Uni-Bank. Ms. Dauphinais is owner and operator of the Grafton Country Store. Ms. Elster is executive director of the Whitin Community Center. Ms. Hurton is a tireless entrepreneurial-minded woman and main torch bearer for the WSN's goals, which are to "support, unite and inspire" its members

with events, programs and opportunities to connect. As Ms. Elster puts it "Pat is our inspirational leader and organizer."

Ms. Hebert of course is president and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, of which the WSN is a part.

Ashley Daviau and Jessica Muradian are also on the WSN's Executive Committee.

As the Women's Success Network looks toward a resumption of business after the summer break, there are such happenings on the calendar as a cruise of Webster Lake, "Commerce on the Common" in Grafton, "maybe mentoring of women coming out of foster homes" and a breakfast with a keynote speaker, Ms. Hurton said on August 25th.

Karen Spencer, executive director of Girls on the Run Worcester County, relishes her involvement with the WSN and speaks highly of the impact it is making.

"I know Heather Elster through the Whitin Community Center and she asked me to join the group and her committee (Community Support). She talked about the female empowerment piece of it and she



A member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Success Network, Carol Dauphinais, left, has operated the Grafton Country Store for approximately eight of its forty-two years in business.

Right: Heather Elster, executive director of the Whitin Community Center, says that while members of the Women's Success Network "all have significant roles in the companies we work for, our subcommittees in the WSN enable us to share the workload."

thought it would be a good partnership for us. The community outreach piece appealed to me, and the networking. I think we don't do enough of this."

What Ms. Spencer likes best, though, is helping people.

"There is always a family in need or a veteran in need," she says.

New mothers too, for whom the WSN recently ran a collection drive, as the organization is planning to do as well for senior citizens who may need assistance with housing, oil payments



women mentors. We are working on the mentoring part of it right now."

Ms. Dauphinais was also recruited by Pat Hurton.

"Pat came here to interview me for a spotlight and how I survived Covid-19. Our doors were closed for three months but we were open on the inside, providing people with Easter baskets and then baskets for Mother's Day too. It was just myself and my daughter."

Ms. Dauphinais quickly embraced the Women's Success Network, in part as a way to see how other women businesspersons were doing.

"I know how hard it is to own a business. You are operating 24/7 and if I can help out any other business I want to do that. If the Women's Support Network can be a little branch of It Takes a Village, you are going to grab that opportunity."

"Pat Hurton is awesome. She kind of roped me in with her sweet talk!"

The WSN is just one of a number of organizations Ms. Elster belongs to. One of these is the Chamber. She is a member of the BVCC's Board of Directors.

She is pleased to be a part of the WSN.

"It was a little challenging to get it going right before the pandemic but once we formed subcommittees we got rolling and I just brought a new member onto my subcommittee," Ms. Ester said.

Unlike other networking groups, "we get in the dirt and dig together," she said. "Packing boxes and bags. It's more informal. Business after Hours can be a daunting." Having a chance to meet at The Tavern in Grafton and then go shopping at Commerce on the Common (in November), "that was fun."

"We planted tulip gardens and we will be doing that again in October. We are starting a mentoring initiative. We have worked with 4H and the Girl Scouts. Much of what we do happens at the subcommittee level. We do a lot and we're excited and passionate about it, about making a difference."

For more information about the Women's Success Network and how to join the group, go to www.blackstonevalley.org.

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



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September 26th - 30th

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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@cruise-planners.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 &



WIN TICKETS TO THIS SHOW! MORE INFO ON PAGE 10

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>.

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 8

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 8

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

\$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, 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 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,

HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 10

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 9

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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Once-popular restaurants, now closed and forgotten

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 and the Sampson family owned and operated the Cocke 'n Kettle until

its closure in 2008. It was subsequently purchased by Odisefs "Tom" Tsomogiannis 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



FIESTY FORK The Klondike Inn in South Grafton, closed for more than two decades. *continued on page 13*

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- Shepherd's Pie \$10.95
- American Chop Suey \$8.95
- Liver & Onion w/pot & veg.....\$9.95
- Meatloaf w/pot & veg \$8.95
- Quesadilla - Cajun Chicken \$9.95
- Steak\$11.95 - Sauteed Veg. ...+\$1.00
- NY Sirloin Steak w/pot & veg.....\$19.95
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- Chicken Parm over Pasta w/garlic bread \$12.95

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Terri and Mike

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.

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 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 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

Historic Aviation Hangar and the Classic Automobile Barn. This is a rare opportunity for visitors to see



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

some of the world's rarest aircraft, classic American automobiles, historic tanks, armored vehicles, military artifacts and more.

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FIESTY FORK

continued from page 11

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.

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.

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Multiple spirits haunt The Shanley Hotel in Upstate NY-1

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 barber-shop, 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 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 estab-

lishment 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.



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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 hus-

band had considered just 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 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 back yard 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 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



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.



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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 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

LUKE

continued on page 17



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LUKE

continued from page 16

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 wined 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 in a basket from the trunk of our breeder's vehicle to our own backseat. He sat up

were similar. Or do all dogs, like pups from a 101 Dalmation's film, carry an innate fear of being taken away in a van by the Cruella Deville's of the world?

I kneeled 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



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

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.

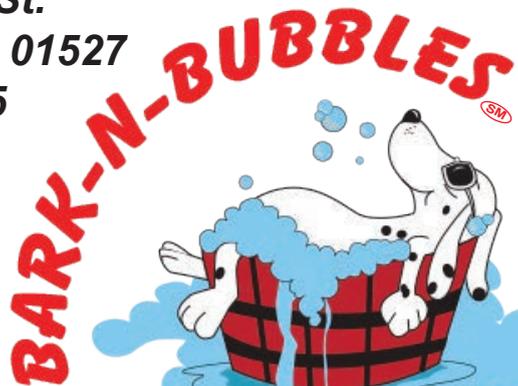
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Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke. Tell me your dog story. Write me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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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 remember 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 to-

ward 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.

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 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!



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

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).**

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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 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 instru-

ment 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@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, [mrjohnfpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnfpaul).



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Co-Owner Robin McDonald is the company's finance, trade show and

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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.

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SPORTS

Northbridge girls soccer coach's aim is wins, and fun

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Prior to the MIAA's new playoff plan the Northbridge girls' soccer team would have to beat Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) member Millbury in the Central Mass Tournament if they wanted to have any chance of advancing into the State Tournament. However, with the adjustment last year the Rams, who went 1-1 in the Central Mass Tournament, found themselves in the State Tournament for the first time in many years.

"In the past we needed to beat Millbury if we had any chance whatsoever to get into the states," Northbridge Coach Kristin Strazzulla said. "Last year playing in the States we got to play teams that we haven't seen in the past."

Playing in the Division 4 State Tournament Northbridge took out Southwick and Uxbridge, each by the score of 2-1, before losing in the Elite 8 to Hamilton-Wenham 2-0.

This year Strazzulla is hoping that with the team's success she sees an increase in the numbers coming out for the squad. Northbridge is a big football school and while that doesn't affect the girls' soccer team Strazzulla usually does not have to make any cuts on the squad because of the low numbers.

"This is my fourth season as head coach and we have seen a slow increase of



numbers," the Ram Coach said. "We now have a varsity as well as a junior varsity team and the middle school's team had 26 girls last year; so, we are seeing the growth."

Steve Prario will be taking the reigns of the JV team this fall for the first time and hopefully he can get the girls ready to take that next step onto the varsity team.

In the past Strazzulla has had around 18 girls on the varsity team with the athletes fluctuating on a game-to-game basis. According to the coach, if someone on the JV squad is playing well and deserves to be promoted she will move up for a game, but the same thing goes with the varsity team and players can be sent down to the JV team on occasion. Not having the numbers, the coach needs to use the floating player scenario to keep the competitiveness alive on both levels.

Leading the charge onto the soccer field this fall will be senior Karlee Battista,

who scored both overtime goals in the MIAA tournament to propel the Rams into the Elite 8.

"She is defiantly someone to watch this year. She started as a center back last year but struggling to put the ball in the net as a team we needed a finisher," Strazzulla said. "Who knows where she'll play this year. I do know she has the ability to score goals, but she is also a fantastic defender."

Another center back who showed she could have the ability to play in the post season was junior Rachel Sawyer. If anyone on the team could challenge Battista in a foot race it would be the junior.

"At times I had to play her in the back all by herself while we moved the other girls up trying to score," the coach noted. "She is a very strong defender and if she's playing good, then we're usually playing good."

Sophomore Madison Thibeault will be playing between the pipes for the Rams once again this fall. As a freshman she started

the punch the team was lacking offensively.

"Hannah was not bitter about the move, not only did she want to help the team in any way that she could, but she also took Maddy under her wing," the coach said. "As a basketball player, she is an all-around fit individual who can be on the field for an extended period of time and she usually doesn't have a lot of injuries."

Although it will be a different perspective for the past goalie, Drenzo is willing to contribute in any way that is needed to produce a successful season. She will also be the team's back-up goalie if needed.

As tryouts were just beginning at the time of this writing Strazzulla was unsure of what she had for a full team and didn't want to put forth any goals for the upcoming season right yet.

"At this point it is still a little tough, but I am excited to get the new year going especially with the success we had making it to the Elite 8," the Rams coach

said. "It should be an exciting fall with positive things happening on the field as well as off it. High school sports should be much more than just wins and losses."

Northbridge is definitely looking to win as their coach is a super competitive individual, but she also knows that this could be the end of the line in terms of soccer for most of the girls.

"Winning is important to an extent, but I realize that most of these girls will not be playing soccer in college so you want to see them having fun while they still can," Strazzulla said. "They have come together as a team with the upper classmen teaching the younger girls. We have the potential for some big wins this upcoming year if we go out and execute the things we did last year."

Northbridge was scheduled to open the season on the road on September 9 against Tantasqua Regional and then host Quaboag Regional two days later in Northbridge.



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From 9a.m.-4p.m. we will have live music, games, rides, food, a car show, fundraisers, and little dog races.

New for this year is an all-ages pinewood derby race with a \$300 prize for fastest car and \$100 prize for "best in show."

This year we will feature local brewing phenom Greater Good in our beer tent, with music from the Rusty Spike and the Brian James Quartet. We are also bringing back our authentic soda jerk experience, a second train, and tricycle racing for all ages.



Check out the little dog races during Oktoberfest on Oct. 1 in Douglas. Photo: Chris Bilodeau, facebook.com/douglasoktoberfest

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If you are interested in being a vendor, volunteer, or performer at Douglas Oktoberfest, contact us through our website, facebook page, or our email, douglas_oktoberfest@yahoo.com. We can't wait to see you

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DETAIL

Walking tour with Ken Warchol is October 1st

Longtime Northbridge historian and history teacher Ken Warchol will lead a two-hour walking tour of Whitinsville on Saturday, October 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, taking participants back to 1772, when the only transportation was horse and buggy.

A time when the only source of power was the rivers. The time of the American Revolution, when Northbridge received its town charter and Whitinsville was only a small village.

He will share how the town grew into a large thriving industrial village with the coming of the Industrial Revolution following Independence from England. He will also delve into the Whitin's family role in bringing the Industrial Revolution to Northbridge and building Whitin Machine Works into the largest textile machine shop in the world by the end of the 1920s with over 5,000 employees working on three shifts.

Mr. Warchol will give tour members insight into the social and economic aspects of village life by focusing on eighteen major buildings in

the village that characterize this. "The architectural skeleton is still here to remind us of what once was, even though the inner workings of the village have all changed," he points out. The paternalism of the Whitin family is gone, but that architectural skeleton reminds us of bygone days. He will describe how the transportation revolution helped the village progress. From the horse and wagon to the canal barge, to the railroad, to the trolley, and to the automobile, the village kept pace as it grew through transportation improvements as well as power improvements that came about.

"This year is the 250th anniversary of the town of

Northbridge, and this tour will commemorate that celebration," Mr. Warchol noted. "We also celebrate the village of Whitinsville being a part of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park with a lot of pride that we reflect an important part of the nation's heritage."

This free event is sponsored by the Northbridge Historical Commission. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Call Ken Warchol at 508-680-3440 or email Kenwarchol2@msn.com and include your full name, telephone number, and the number of people attending. Participants will meet at Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main St., Whitinsville, MA, and should arrive by 9:45 a.m.



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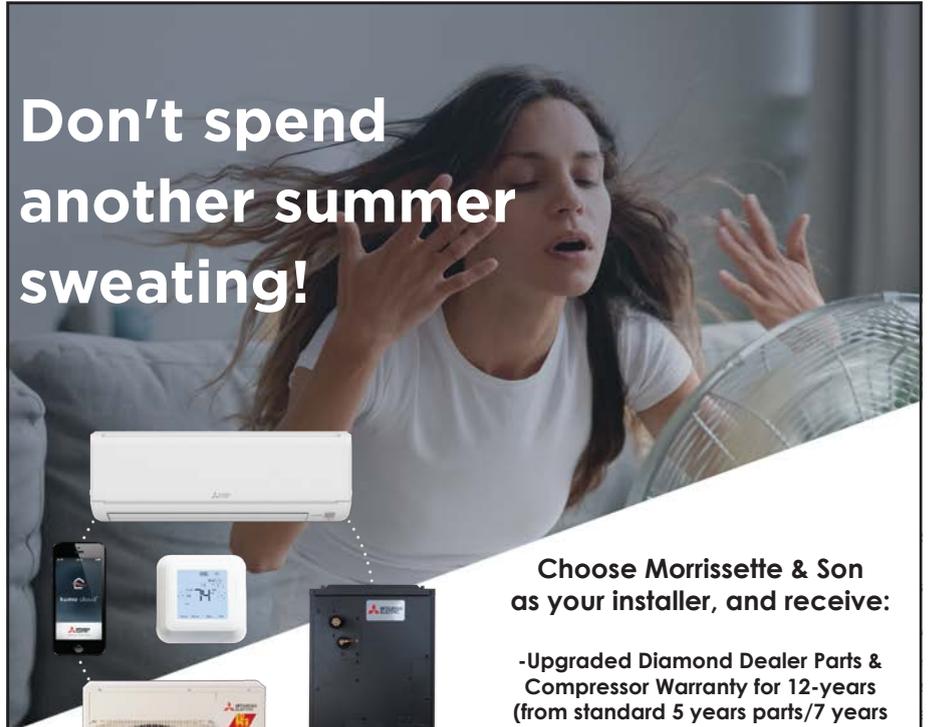
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