

## Small Stones Festival of Arts rich in variety for 2022

BY DANA WILSON

The fifth annual Small Stones Festival of the Arts offers a diverse variety of literature, music and arts-related programming including a juried exhibit

the Grafton Town Common on September 17th. Food from Bushel 'N Peck, Cancuns Family Mexican Restaurant, Grafton Grill & Crust, The Grafton Inn, Pepperoni Express, Post Office Pub, Reunion Table & Tap and

continues to grow.

Five regional arts organizations – Apple Tree Arts, the Worcester County Camera Club, the Blackstone Valley Art Association, the Shakespeare Club of Grafton and Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra have collaborated to create this year's fine art and photography SSFA.

Exhibit hours are Saturday, October 15 and October 22, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 16 and October 23, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Weekday hours run Wednesday, October 19 to Friday, October 21, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The painting and photography exhibit will be held at the Great Hall, Apple Tree Arts, One Grafton Common, Grafton.

The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra Chamber players will present a lecture and demonstration concert on Saturday evening, October 15, 7:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Grafton, 30 Grafton Common.

The principal string musicians of the CSHO will deconstruct a Mozart string quartet demonstrating the classical form and structure. Then, they will perform the entire piece. The quartet, joined by Paul Surapine, found-

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Vendors including those offering food are a staple of Gazebo Palooza, the 2022 version of which was held September 17th as a fundraiser for the fifth annual Small Stones Festival of the Arts in Grafton. Photo by Jennifer Paluzzi.

of fine art painting and photography at three venues in Grafton. Extended festival hours run from October 14 through the 23rd.

As a prelude to the Festival, and a fundraiser for the event itself, a fun block party—Gazebo Palooza—was held in and around

the Town House Tavern was featured at Gazebo Palooza along with music from the Town House Tavern's patio with Steve Richards emceeing.

All proceeds from Gazebo Palooza go towards the Small Stones Festival of the Arts, which



The Buck Homestead on Main Street in Millbury, home of Mulhane Home for Funerals since 1938.

## Mulhane Home for Funerals marks 150 years as a town asset

BY ROD LEE

Few people can say with certainty what the town of Millbury felt and looked like one hundred fifty years ago. But this much we know: Mulhane Home for Funerals opened for business in 1872, and is still going strong today.

Stuart Mulhane and his son Matthew are not making a big deal about the 150th anniversary, or the fact that they are the

fourth and fifth generation care keepers of an enterprise that has demonstrated staying power while earning the respect of the communities it serves.

Like the family itself, the former Buck Homestead at 45 Main St. in the heart of Millbury Center—the only address Mulhane has known since being purchased by Joseph Mulhane and his son

**MULHANE**  
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## SMALL STONES

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ing executive and artistic director of the CHSO, will perform Mozart's "Quintet for Clarinet and String."

The literary track, organized by The Shakespeare Club of Grafton will include three programs to be held at the newly imagined Grafton Public Library, 35 Grafton Common.

"Shakespeare Now and Then" will be presented Saturday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. by Helen Whall, English professor emerita of the College of Holy Cross. Dr. Whall questions why Shakespeare remains today? Why was he so successful in the 16th century? She will discuss how theatrical innovations helped liberate the English language and how

events that occurred during his time run parallel with similar occurrences in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Whall asks us to wonder why today's public continues to produce and read Shakespeare while the once equally well-read epics of Homer, Virgil, and Milton are now neglected? Part of the reason, she speculates, is because they are NOT theater. But it's also, she argues, because of Shakespeare's literary genius that his popularity and influence on living art continues.

Nicholas Gage, the award-winning New York Times investigative reporter, author of seven acclaimed books and producer of the Oscar nominated film "The Godfather Part III," will present "A Writer's Odyssey," a personal recol-

lection of his storied career on October 21 at 7:00 p.m.

His early literary work, "Eleni," a searing account of his mother's life and death during the Greek Civil War, has been translated into thirty-two languages, made into a film, and was hailed by critics as "one of the rare books in which the power of art re-creates the full historical truth." His coming-of-age memoir, "A Place for Us," recounts his struggles to adjust to a new life as a young immigrant in Worcester in the 1950s.

Then step back into Victorian times at the performance of Victorian Gossip Girl™: Annie Adams Fields, produced by History At Play™, LLC. Mrs. Fields invites us to a humorous, intimate tea party at her "waterside museum" in Beacon



*Celebrated Author and Film Producer Nicholas Gage (left), pictured in his writing studio, is a headliner for the upcoming fifth annual Small Stones Festival of the Arts in Grafton. Mr. Gage has Worcester and Central Massachusetts-area roots. Among the other featured appearances will be those by Paul Surapine of the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra, Michael Rose who will present on "how to market your art," Annie Adams Fields with a step back into Victorian times and Judith Kalaora (inset) offering a production of "Victorian Gossip Girl." Photos by Andy Weigl of Weigl Photography.*

thoughts and perspectives regarding their favorite festival artwork.

The mission of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts is to elevate the practice and appreciation of fine art and photography in the Blackstone Valley and beyond. The Festival is produced under the aegis of fiscal sponsor, Grafton Arts, Inc., a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization.

Sponsors for the 2022 Festival include Artscope, Gaudette Insurance, Grafton Cultural Council, Homefield Credit Union, JCSI, Jubilee Chocolate, Mass Cultural Council, Pepperoni Express, Roney Funeral Home, Sydney Padgett of Mathieu Newton Sotheby's International Realty, Theroux Dental Associates, Katheleen Schaker of Touchstone Crystal, Town House Tavern at One Grafton Common and Yesod Foundation, Inc.

Sponsorships are available to help support the 2022 Festival. Please contact Chair Ken Crater at ken@graffonarts.org. For more information, visit <https://smallstonesfestival.org>.

Hill. Wielding an incredible influence on literary decisions at Ticknor and Fields Publishing House, (forerunner to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), she counted amongst her closest friends Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Charles Dickens.

During the tea party, Mrs. Fields shares tales about her beloved friends, chronicled in her novel "Authors and Friends" published in 1896. The evening is filled with tales of Victorian revelry, laughter, and even some blushing cheeks.

"Victorian Gossip Girl" is produced and performed by Judith Kalaora, a professional educator, award-winning playwright, producer and living historian. Founder and Artistic Director Kalaora created History At Play™, LLC to educate and entertain audiences young and old with an emphasis on influential and often forgotten figures. The performance will be held Saturday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Artists will learn the basics of how to bring their art to market at our program "How to Market Your Art" presented by Michael Rose, gallery manager of the historic Providence Art Club. Rose has a wealth of in-depth professional knowledge and resources on how to be successful when marketing to galleries and auction houses. This thorough lecture will provide inspiration and direction for artists who are selling through their own studios as well. Join us October 19 at 6:00 p.m. for this presentation at the Great Hall, Apple Tree Arts, One Grafton Common.

The popular artist and juror talks return Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m. The artist discussions will center on their work while the juror's presentations will provide insights about their

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**MULHANE**

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Dennis Sr. in 1938—has stood the test of time.

Besides extensive renovations that were undertaken between 1980 and 1993, the home has undergone more recent upgrades as well.



Stuart Mulhane and his son Matthew greet spectators during a Fourth of July parade.

“We have added additions and taken down walls to open up the area,” Matt Mulhane said on September 12th. “We’ve made things as large as we can to accommodate any kind of service.”

Stu Mulhane joined the company in 1969, Matt Mulhane in 2003, fresh out of Colby-Sawyer College with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management. Matt became the company’s fifth fully licensed embalmer and funeral director in 2009.

Their credentials as prominent “Millburyites” and active members of a number of civic-minded organizations are a reflection of their commitment to municipal life.

Stu Mulhane has affiliations with the Millbury Veterans Council, the Charles F. Minney VFW Post, Devoe-Taylor American Legion Post No. 9, the Millbury Lions Club, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Brigid Church and Millbury National Bank.

He has been on the Board of Directors of Millbury National Bank since 1990, as was his father Dennis before him, according to MNB President and

CEO Kate Marcum.

Matt Mulhane is an assistant football coach with the Sutton-Douglas program. He joined the Board of Directors of Millbury National Bank in 2021. Like his dad, he is a member of the Millbury Lions Club.

Stu Mulhane is also a decorated military veteran

explains why both institutions are doing well.

Small-business activity is picking up, post-pandemic, Mr. Latino said.

“Covid limited their business,” he said, of Mulhane Home for Funerals. “Mulhane is an example of how small businesses” can adapt and move forward from adversity.

Matt Mulhane said working in the funeral trade can be stressful. He has drawn on his father’s many years of experience to chart his own path.

“We have tried to get the word out to let people know” about the 150th, he said. “People do come up to us and congratulate us. We’ve served generations and generations. Families talk about my grandfather.”

With the improvements



Stu Mulhane, left, joined Mulhane Home for Funerals in 1969. Matt Mulhane joined the family business in 2003.



they have continued to make in the property, Stu and Matt Mulhane have stayed true to the original vision put forth by Joseph Mulhane and Dennis Sr., who chose the name “Mulhane Home for Funerals” as a way to make families feel comfortable in a wel-

coming environment.

The funeral industry has changed, with different kinds of services for different people, Matt Mulhane said. Mulhane Home for Funerals understands this, and offers not only funeral services and memorial services but personal video

tributes, customized on-line memorials, funeral pre-planning, sharing of service details with friends and family, burial, cremation and grief support.

As Mr. Latino says, “they have changed a lot of the services to offer more, with technology.”

“No one wants to come here,” Matt Mulhane acknowledges, of families’ reluctance to say goodbye to loved ones. “But everyone wants to do something.”

Matthew actually started his career at Mulhane at a young age, doing “painting and small jobs.”

Asked if he still takes on painting tasks, he says, “yes, when it’s called for.”

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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 ex-

hilaration 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.



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

“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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# LMT Oil Delivers With Community Involvement

**L**M T Oil is not new to Charlton and surrounding areas.

The company has been delivering goods and services for the past six years, but owner Tom Dolan has been doing service work on heating systems and air conditioners for 11 years.

The company is small — with six employees — and family owned, and loves being part of the community.

## Business spotlight

“We are a small, family owned business but we are always looking to grow with our community, so we are always looking for experienced help,” said Holly Dancause.



LMT Oil delivers home heating oil, and also does service on heating, air conditioning systems, and heat pumps. They do installations as well.

But delivering oil isn't the only part of the business they love.

“We love being part of the community. Because we live in this community, as well, we get to know our customers, which creates a more personal relationship with them. Tom's kids, who the company is named after, go to our local schools, so he likes to be able to give back to the school community by making donations each year. He donates money to a classroom each year to purchase books every month for each child from the Scholastic Book Club,” said Dancause.

One recent challenge has been the increase in prices over the last year.

“It's been difficult for everyone, especially our customers. We have done our best to keep our prices low so we can be more affordable to our customers. Unfortunately with the rising cost of home heating oil as well as the diesel we need to transport to customers, it has made it difficult. We have encouraged customers who are considerably concerned about this upcoming winter's prices to consider applying for Fuel Assistance through the Worcester Community Action Council. We do accept Fuel Assistance customers,” she said.

*LMT Oil can be reached by phone at 508-434-1335.*

### With the colder months ahead, LMT Oil offered some advice for customers:

- Get a heating system tune-up — it will ensure you get the maximum performance out of your heating system.
- Open shades and drapes when the sun is out to help warm your home. Close them when the sun goes down to reduce heat loss through drafty windows.
- Turn down the thermostat at night and when you are away from home; even slightly lowering your thermostat during the day may save on your heating bill.
- Insulate pipes to guard against heat loss and to prevent them from freezing.
- Stop heat loss by weather proofing your home. Such as eliminating any gaps between your door and threshold. Caulk or re-caulk exterior spaces between the windows and walls of your home.
- Remove, cover or close air conditioning units and vents when not in use.
- Do not place furniture in front of radiators; it will block heat from circulating.
- For additional tips they can go to Mass Save to have an Energy Audit performed on their home. Mass Save is a helpful program to many of our customers.

Hopefully these tips can help save customers some money this winter.



Company president Thomas Dolan named the company after his three children; Lillian, Madison and Thomas



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# 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 his-

tory,” 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 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.



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 North-bridge: 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.



“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 going 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

**ZAP 50**  
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**ZAP 50**

*continued from page 6*

the river was back; and this morning we saw a bald eagle!”

Ms. Blazis said her moth-

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

September 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Blazis was planning to be there.

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



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.

er “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

anniversary of Zap the Blackstone—dubbed “The Great 2022 Blackstone River Revival Zap 50,” was held at the Slater Mill Historic Park in Pawtucket on Saturday,

bike along. “It’s a Class B river now,” she says.

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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



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."

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 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 and other issues.

Members of the WSN came to the group in different ways.

"About five years ago I met Pat Hurton at a Chamber event and she mentioned they had started a network and asked if I was interesting in resurrecting it because it was struggling," Ms. Breton said. "We really go off of the Chamber and the Chamber's membership. It's definitely given me an opportunity to create [relationships] that go beyond business. In such a male-dominated industry, I want 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](http://www.blackstonevalley.org).

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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 Odise's "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



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.

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](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.

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

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HEALTHIER BAKING

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# Honey-baked Sunflower Dinner Rolls

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

Do you notice something different about this month's column? In about a year's worth of recipes, this is the first one that calls for yeast. And there's a reason for that. But it's not necessarily a good one.

My few past attempts at baking with yeast haven't been resoundingly success-

ful. They've been forgettable at best and outright failures at worst. So, I tend to avoid baking anything that requires it.

However, with fall being the season when students return to learning new things, it seems like the perfect time to try such recipes. YouTube videos that address specific baking issues – like sticky, unmanageable dough – can

also offer motivation. And this recipe for honey-baked sunflower dinner rolls is an ideal recipe for anyone with little experience working with yeast.

Although this recipe contains less fat than most recipes for dinner rolls, that's not the only reason that it's a bit healthier. Sunflower seeds are packed with nutrients. They contain substantial amounts

of Vitamin E, selenium, flavonoids and other nutrients that have the ability to reduce inflammation and protect cells against free radical damage. Reducing inflammation and avoiding free radical damage can also help prevent chronic diseases.

The tiny seeds, which are harvested from large sunflowers, have other benefits as well. They can lower your risk of heart disease. They might also help to lower blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar.

- 2 Teaspoons of Instant Yeast
- ½ Teaspoon of Salt (Optional)
- 1 Cup of Warm Water (120 degrees to 130 degrees)
- 1 Tablespoon of Light-Tasting Olive Oil

**Topping Ingredients:**

- 6 Teaspoons of Honey
- 6 Tablespoons of Unsalted Sunflower Kernels

**Directions:**

In a large bowl, combine the flour, yeast, salt, olive oil and water until the mixture is smooth and somewhat sticky.

Cover the bowl, and let the dough rest and proof in a warm place for about 30-45 minutes.

Once the dough has been proofed, punch it down.

Divide the dough evenly into six separate units.

Knead each one on a floured surface, and form each one into a roll.

On a parchment or foil-lined baking sheet, drizzle 1 teaspoon of honey over each roll. Then, sprinkle each roll with 1 tablespoon of sunflower kernels.

Bake at 400 degrees for about 15 minutes.

\*Please Note: Honey is unsafe for infants, so this recipe shouldn't be made for anyone under one-years-old.

*Hopefully, this easy healthier recipe for dinner rolls can be a re-introduction to baking with yeast for you as well. Happy (healthier) baking, and happy learning!*

**HONEY-BAKED SUNFLOWER DINNER ROLLS**

**Ingredients:**

- 3 Cups of All-Purpose Flour

## Oktoberfest returns to Douglas Oct. 1

Oktoberfest is back and bigger than ever! There was a time when they raced horses down Main St., Douglas. This year, on Saturday, October 1, we will once again be closing Main Street (and Depot Street) to traffic and opening it up to our friends and neighbors!

From 9a.m.-4p.m. we will have live music, games, rides, food, a car show, fun-

draisers, 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 authen-

tic soda jerk experience, a second train, and tricycle racing for all ages.

Kooman Lumber will be providing a hay ride from The Douglas Elementary and Middle Schools to the event, and additional parking will be available at Soldier's field to make it easier than ever to park and attend the event.

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 on October 1st in Douglas for Oktoberfest! Follow our Facebook page: facebook.com/douglasoktoberfest for the most up to date schedule of events.

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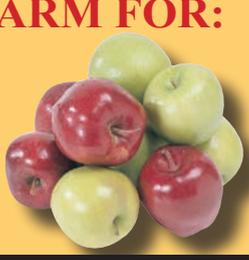


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# Happenings!

**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:**

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.

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

• The Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South St., in conjunction with the Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter, is hosting an exhibit to celebrate Constitution Week. The museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday and Tuesday to view this display.

**THROUGH OCTOBER 2**

• The Big E, Massachusetts' state fair, continues in Springfield.

**THROUGH OCTOBER 29**

• An art exhibition featuring alcohol and ink paintings by Linda Littleton will be on display in the café gallery of Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. A reception for the artist is scheduled for Friday, October 14th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Call 508-949-6232 for further info.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

• The Douglas High School Celebration Graduation Committee is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser at Douglas High School, 33 Davis St., from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Included are pasta, meatballs, sauce, salad and breadsticks donated by Olive Garden; also desserts. Cost is eight dollars for adults and five dollars for children under twelve.

A Halloween-themed Paint Night with Jean Walker will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Paint your own wooden picket fence in a fun, seasonal design just in time to display for Halloween. The finished piece is four-foot tall and four slats wide. Cost is \$39. Space is limited. Call 508-949-

6232 to register.

**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.

• The Friends of the Uxbridge Free Public Library, 15 N. Main St., are hosting a Book and Bake Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Home-baked pies, cakes and cookies and an assortment of children's, young adult and adult books will be available. There will also be a Treasure Table of "really cool items."

• The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge, will host its annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run to help those in emergency situations who are struggling to make ends meet. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. Registration is in the parking lot behind the parish hall. Donations can be made online at www.fopwalk.org for St. Mary's Uxbridge MA. For more information, contact Donna at 508-278-2226.

• A Fantasia Drag Show will take place at Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster at 7:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/events> for further info.

**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 Rieser at 508-832-5385 or [karen.rieser@edwardjones.com](mailto:karen.rieser@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](mailto: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.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

• Nick Bosse and the Northern Roots will appear at Samuel

Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/events> for more info.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

• Douglas' Octoberfest will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the area of Main and Depot streets, with live music, games, rides, foods, a car show, fundraisers and little dog races. New this year is an all-ages pinewood derby race with a \$300 prize for fastest car and a \$100 prize for best-in-show. Local brewer Greater Good will be represented in the Octoberfest Beer Tent, featuring music by Rusty Spike and the Brian James Quartet. Returning are the event's soda-jerk experience, a second train, and tricycle racing for all ages. This year, Koopman Lumber will be providing a hay ride from the Douglas elementary and middle schools to the event, and there will be additional parking at Soldier's Field. Prospective vendors can obtain more information by visiting Douglas Octoberfest's



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.

website, at [facebook.com/douglasoctoberfest](https://facebook.com/douglasoctoberfest) or by emailing [douglas\\_octoberfest@yahoo.com](mailto:douglas_octoberfest@yahoo.com).

• An Historical Walking Tour of Whitinsville with Ken Warchol starts at Northbridge Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. and continues until noon. Arrive by 9:45 a.m. Pre-registration for this event is

required. Contact Mr. Warchol at 508-680-3440 or [kenwarchol2@msn.com](mailto:kenwarchol2@msn.com).

• The Sutton Historical Society will present a Wagon and Cart Show from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the

**HAPPENINGS!**  
*continued on page 12*

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## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 11*

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.
- Live acoustic music with Cameron Sutphin will be presented from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. Donations will be accepted and CDs will be available for purchase. Cameron Sutphin is an American singer and guitar player. In 2017, as a solo act, he released his debut Nashville-recorded CD Heartbreak Town.

### SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 15 & NOVEMBER 5

- An Introduction to Digital Pho-

tography workshop series led by 'Bil' Gardiner of William Gardiner Photography in Worcester will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost for the entire series is \$75. Contact deb@bookoversgourmet.com or call 508-949-6232.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

- The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Crossfire at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

- An Evening with Physic Medium Leo McCarthy will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and limited to the first ten attendees.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- An Indian Prince lake tour will take place at 9:45 a.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/events> for more info.
- Upton VFW Post 5594 will wrap up its summer series of flea markets at 15 Milford St. (Rt. 14). Spaces are \$10 each or \$15 if a banquet-sized table is needed. Parking is free. Call David Kennedy at 508-529-3314 or visit the Post's Facebook page for more details.

### 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](http://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](http://mysfpl.org).

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- Duranarama will take place at Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/> for more info.



An original painting by award-winning Millbury artist Michael Graves will be among the items up for purchase during the Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library's Online Auction, October 9-23. Open bidding for Mr. Graves' painting and such other featured items as a Harry Potter signed first edition, a handcrafted knife by Jim Saviano, beautiful gift baskets, gift certificates, vacation packages, antique and vintage items and items of local historical significance has started. The Friends thank sponsors for donations that make this year's auction catalog the best ever. All proceeds benefit the library's building fund campaign including handicapped access. Go to <https://mysfpl.org> to place your bid(s).

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

- St. Patrick's Fall Recycling event will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 7 East St., Whitinsville. Profits will benefit upcoming YIA (Youth in Action) service projects. There will be on-site paper shredding, electronics recycling for a fee and a collection of bottles and cans and textiles. For more information and pricing, call 508-234-5656 or email [officesupport@mystpatricks.co](mailto:officesupport@mystpatricks.co). Cash preferred.

- A Harvest Supper to benefit the Auburn Historical Society and Museum will be held at Pakachoag Church on Pakachoag St., Auburn, at 6:00 p.m. The menu is roast pork, seasonal vegetables and apple crisp. Patrons can dine in or dine out. There will be gift baskets for sale and a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the museum, 41 South St., on Tuesday or Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 508-832-6856 or with a check to the museum, 41 South St., Auburn 01501. Tickets must be purchased by October 8th. Baskets will be on view at the museum the morning of October 15th and tickets for the 50/50 may be bought then too. Winners do not have to be present for the drawing and will be notified.

### OCTOBER 15-16

- Waters Farm Days, a fall tradition, will take place at 53 Waters Road, Sutton, offering attendees an opportunity to learn about New England farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Highlights include tours of the farm house and the maple sugar house, a blacksmith at work and shingle making. There will also be tractor pulls, displays of farm equipment, a car show, farm animals, children's activities, crafters and more.



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The BVCC September kick off Chamber breakfast will feature Massachusetts Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey as our keynote speaker. We are pleased to welcome her to bring us up to date on issues within the Commonwealth and touch upon what she sees for the future of Massachusetts.

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Register at [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events)  
Questions? Contact Liz O'Neil at [loneil@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:loneil@blackstonevalley.org)



## Meet Maura Healey...

Maura Healey is running for Governor to bring people together and build an economy that helps every family thrive.

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.



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**Slip -and- fall incidents:** A roof leak can result in a puddle on the floor, putting you and your family members at risk of slipping and falling.

**Higher energy bills:** A roof leak can also increase your energy bills - all the water from the leak can saturate the insulation in your attic and prevent it from doing its job.

**Fire hazard:** A leaky roof can pose a fire threat if it reaches the electrical wiring in your home.

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# Prepare your garden for winter's onslaught

Individuals who don't live near the equator or in another warm climate know that winter will rear its chilly head this year. Cold temperatures and snowy conditions may be excellent for skiing and sledding, but gardeners recognize these conditions are not ideal for their plants.

The inevitable slowing of activity in the garden during fall marks a time to shift attention from

constant plant care to preparing the landscape for next season. It may be tempting to simply let Mother Nature take over, but a little pre-winter TLC can ensure gardens make it through winter unscathed.

**Remove spent plants**  
Decomposing organic material is the basis for compost and other fertilizers. However, vegetable plants that are left to sit can lead to decay in the gar-

den. Decaying plants can serve as hosts for pest populations and diseases. Rotting vegetables also can drop unwanted seeds into the soil, which eventually can strip nutrients that normally would go to next year's crops.

Ornamental plants and perennials can be cut back in fall. Cut down stalks and remove leaves.

**Plant a cover crop**  
The gardening resource *This Is My Garden* recommends planting a cover crop to set the stage for a successful spring. A cover crop protects the soil and can return nutrients to it. When the soil is bare during winter, weed seeds can easily blow in and lie in wait, ultimately becoming a problem during the

ensuing year. Cover crops can include clover or field peas, which will increase the levels of available nitrogen.

**Amend the soil**  
Fall is a perfect time to add soil amendments, such as manure and compost. These fertilizers will add nutrients and break down gradually, enriching the soil over the winter.

**Replenish mulch**  
Gardeners may have added mulch around shrubs and other areas of the landscape early in the season because it is attractive. But mulch also does much to reduce water loss and protect the soil from erosion. It may inhibit weed growth as well. Replacing mulch when the mercury drops can in-



Adding a layer of mulch around plants can insulate roots and the soil against hard frosts.

insulate the soil, which helps to regulate soil temperature. A thick layer of mulch around root vegetables left in the garden can offer protection against hard frosts.

**Divide bulbs**  
Divide plant bulbs and plant them where you want flowers like daffodils and tulips to grow in the spring.

**Prune dormant plants**  
Wait until plants are dormant to prune them and adjust their shape. Most shrubs

and trees should be pruned in late winter, right before new growth.

**Move potted plants**  
Bring delicate plants into a sheltered area, such as a greenhouse or indoor garage, so they can continue to thrive during the winter.

Fall and winter still provide opportunities to spend time in the garden. At this point in the year, gardeners can prepare landscapes for the next season.



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Terri and Mike

## Here's a tip...

**By JoAnn Derson**

- Apricots are a relative of the peach, and they can be ripened just like a peach can -- in a paper bag on the counter. They should be refrigerated when ripe.
- "I went to a tag sale and purchased a set of really cute flowerpots for barely anything. I like them so much that I am using them inside my house. They are holding utensils in the kitchen, and remotes and other odds and ends in the living room. They are great!" -- S.I.
- Laundry baskets can be your best friends when decluttering the house. Go from room to room collecting the clutter in a laundry basket, then bring it to a central location to sort and redistribute items that belong in each room.
- When purchasing school supplies, remember that paper, pencils, etc., typically aren't on sale mid-year, so stocking up is a good idea. Just make sure the deal you are getting is a good one. Then put it away for distribution later!
- Pint-size water bottles are great for refilling with milk. The

- milk boxes at the grocery store are so expensive, and this way, I can control how chocolatey the chocolate milk is. -- C.C.
  - Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.
  - \* To travel with pleated skirts, use this packing trick: Turn the skirt inside out and straighten all the pleats. Then tape the bottom so that all the pleats are held together. Next, feed the skirt into a leg of pantyhose with the foot cut off. You end up with a nice tube, which you can tuck into the sides of your luggage.
  - \* When traveling for more than a few days, stick your plants into the bathtub with a little bit of water. They soak it up, and you don't have to have someone come over and water your plants. This will only work for a week or less, though. -- John McF.
  - \* I keep grocery lists on my computer. When I am going to go shopping, I print out the list and fold the paper in half. Then I slip my coupons into the fold. Keeps them handy when I am shopping. -- Reader
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# A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens. The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool

down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.

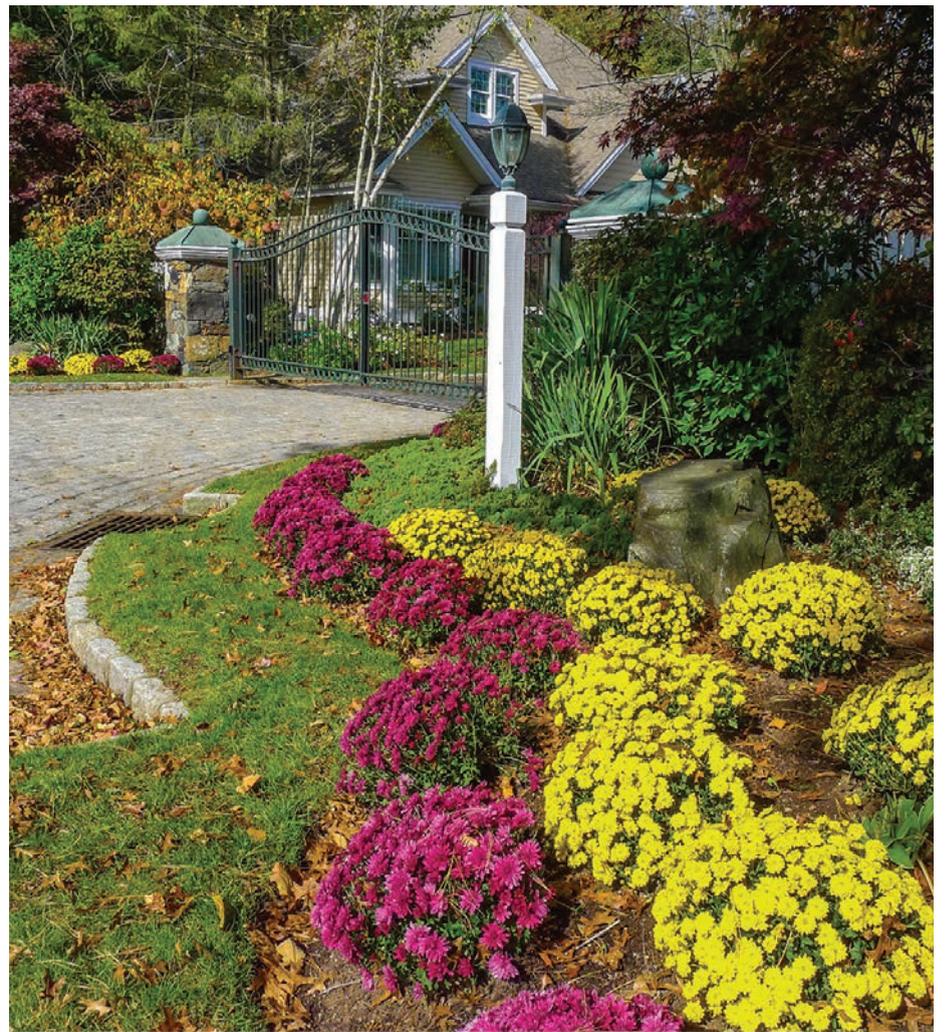
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind

that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know



How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.

- Continue to water

plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and

maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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## Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance.

What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed — expanding the list of rooms where a fireplace can be installed.

Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- Minimalist style: Many

fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- Convertible fireplaces: Homeowners can choose between open or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- Nature-inspired materials: Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone

also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- Vintage fireplaces: Vintage continues to be a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- Integrate into wall decor: Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.



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# 7 characteristics of modern houses

Homes contain a variety of components that appeal to homeowners with different ideas about the perfect place to call home. That starts with the style of a home.

Buildings are classified according to share components. A Craftsman style home will have a covered porch with a set of wide base columns, while a Cape Cod home is often defined by a gabled roof and dormer windows. Modern houses, which are sometimes called contemporary homes even though the terms are not interchangeable, will have their own sets of unique characteristics. Here's a look at seven features that make modern homes unique.

**1. Minimalist approach:** Contemporary and modern homes both employ an approach that leans toward minimalism, including clean

design lines. Spaces are open and airy without the clutter of too many ornate architectural details. While modern homes may have some curvature to their design, contemporary ones are all about an angular look.

**2. Neutral color palette:** Modern homes tend to utilize a neutral color palette. Modern homes may use 'earthy' elements, such as wood and brick, in ways that do not look rustic. Contemporary homes rely on a color palette of black and white with shades of gray or other neutral colors.

**3. Geometric shapes:** Modern homes have strong horizontal and vertical elements that showcase geometric shapes in their designs. Contemporary homes often have flat roofs, while modern homes may not.

**4. Large, unadorned windows:** Most modern homes showcase a lot of natural light by utilizing large windows that are not covered up by heavy window treatments or elements like shutters and thick trims. Large windows are the focus of the interior and shift attention to the view outdoors.

**5. Open floor concept:** A hallmark of modern interior design, the open concept floor plan removes many of the walls that tend to separate common areas of a home. This helps to foster the spread of natural light and maintains the emphasis on simplicity of design.

**6. Smart elements:** Thanks to the proliferation of smart technology, smart homes are cropping up with greater frequency. While smart devices can be included in any home



style, they tend to feel like they were designed specifically for modern homes. In a similar vein, modern homes may include environmentally friendly elements, such as solar panels, upcycled materials, added insulation, and energy efficient lighting.

**7. Updated kitchen spaces:** The clean lines and attention to technology and open space generally extends

to modern kitchens. Modern kitchens tend to feature efficient, top-tier appliances with additional storage and space amenities that keep the room from

feeling cluttered. While some may consider modern homes austere, many others are right at home among their clean lines and airy spaces.



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# Signs your gutters are in need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down.

Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

• Gutter hanging off the home: Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be

replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

• Gutter separation: Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints,

another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

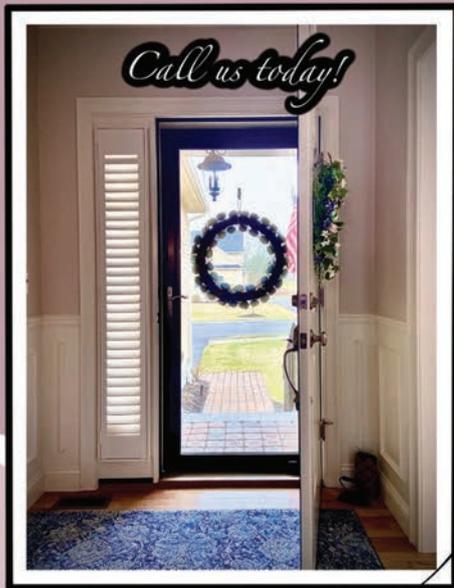
• Peeling exterior paint: Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.

• Basement flooding: Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.

Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.

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# Gourds, squashes and pumpkins, oh my!

Halloween takes place during a time of year characterized by earth-colored chrysanthemums, leaf-lined walkways and crisp autumn air. As colorful as the costumes children wear for trick-or-treating may be, nature's beauty is unsurpassed this time of year, and the scores of pumpkins, gourds and squashes on display only add to that colorful melange.

The Cucurbitaceae family may be best known for pumpkins, squash and gourds, but there actually are 800 species that belong to this family. While they share many of the same properties, these fruits each have their own unique attributes.

The main differences between squashes, gourds and pumpkins is their intended purposes - whether they're ornamental or edible.

**Squash**  
Squashes come in summer and winter varieties.

Winter ones do not actually grow in the winter; in fact, they're harvested in late summer and early fall, but the name references the hard shell casing that protects the tender pulp inside. Zucchini are summer squash because their outer flesh is tender, while butternut, acorn, spaghetti, and hubbard squashes are winter squashes because they feature a tough skin. Even though it takes some effort to crack that shell, the dense, nutrient-rich flesh inside is well worth the workout.

**Gourds**  
Gourds are essentially ornamental squashes; they aren't cultivated for eating. Instead they are bred to look beautiful and unique in autumn centerpieces. Types of gourds include autumn wing gourd, warted gourds, turban gourds, and bottle gourds. Each gourd is

unique in its shape and color.

**Pumpkins**  
Pumpkins come in ornamental and edible varieties. Even though all pumpkins can be consumed, some taste better than others. Small pumpkins tend to be decorative because, according to Nutritious Life, they do not have enough meat inside to make them worthy of cooking. However, sugar pumpkins are best for baking and cooking favorite recipes, states the resource Pumpkin Nook.

The festive hues and flavors of squashes, gourds and pumpkins are one more thing that makes Halloween and autumn special.



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# Grafton's Business Scene – September 2022

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

It's not unusual for big businesses to get involved in politics in one way or another. And while that makes some of their employees and customers happy, it upsets and angers others, causing them to go elsewhere. The practice divides people.

But, thankfully, many small businesses choose a much kinder path. They support activities that generally unite people and actually serve the community. This month, in Grafton, several local organizations and small businesses are truly giving back to the community and uniting it in fun and thoughtful ways.

Most people agree that pets are a blessing and deserve to be treated as such. A new addition to the Grafton Public Library's front lawn should bring joy to both pets and people.

"The next time you're out walking your dog on the Common, drop by the Grafton Public Library's Stick Library located on the front lawn near the corner of South and Upton Streets," Debby Jackson, the library's administrative assistant, wrote in a recent press release. "Inspired by a patron suggestion and based on the take a book, leave a book concept of Little Libraries around town, the Stick Library gives the dogs of Grafton a place to take a stick to play with or chew on and leave a stick behind for another four-legged friend."

Nearby, people are invited to come together for the Congregational Church of Grafton's 43rd Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social. The free event will be held on Sunday Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds, located at 30 Grafton Common.

The event will include live music, a yard sale, kids' games and raffles. And the apple pies, apple crisp, chili and corn chowder that the fair is known for, along with other food and beverages, will be available to buy. The funds raised through the sales and raffles will help support the charities and missions that the church supports.

Recently, several local businesses came together to support the 2022 Small Stones Festival of the Arts, a festival held by Apple Tree Arts, the Blackstone Valley Art Association, the Worcester County Camera Club, the Shakespeare Club of Grafton and Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra. Businesses including Off the

Common Antiques, Red Rock Grill & Bar and Reunion Tap & Table donated

SellarShop.com, Grafton Country Store, Truth Organic Spa, Darlene's Barber Shop, Highfields Golf & Country Club, Jubilee Chocolate, The Bread Guy and Pecorino Cheese Shop are among the businesses that donated items, gift baskets and services.

Throughout the year, Treasures gives its customers the chance to help fund students' educations, while buying gently-used items at bargain prices. The North Grafton upscale thrift shop that sells clothing, furniture, gifts and housewares already has Halloween costumes for sale along with some new fall items. The shop's proceeds benefit the

Whitinsville Christian School.

Finally, on Saturday Sept. 24 at 9:30 a.m. – with

registration starting at 9, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conference at Saint Mary Church in Uxbridge will hold its 3.5-mile Friends of the Poor Walk/Run to benefit the work it does to help local people in need. The walk will begin and end at the church, located at 77 Mendon Street in Uxbridge. Among the walk's sponsors are Koopman Lumber, UniBank and Savers Bank, which all have branches in Grafton.

Big businesses and organizations could learn a lot from small ones. Like the beautiful New England autumn foliage, so many of the ones in Grafton – including several not mentioned in this month's column – have been reaching out and brightening their community, instead of dividing it.

Contact Christine with your business news items at [cmgaleone15@gmail.com](mailto:cmgaleone15@gmail.com).



Grafton Public Library's New Stick Library and a Loyal Patron. Photo submitted

gift cards to support the non-profit festival's Gazebo-Palooza's silent auction. And Bonnie Frederico of

## 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, market-

Zoo, Past President Justine Brewer, Betsey Brewer of Earth Ltd. at Southwick's Zoo and Justin Corsa and Meng Liu of the Zigong Lantern Group.

Working again with the award-winning Zigong Lantern family, 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.

Ms. Mazur described the experience as "a



ing 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.

Ms. Mazur said a VIP kickoff held on September 7th was well-attended and featured remarks by Sen. Ryan Fattman, Rep. Brian Murray, Bill Burns of the Performance Food Group, Peter Brewer who is president of Southwick's

journey through forgotten stories of myths, legends and fairy tales. So amazing!"

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 Illumination purchase their tickets in advance. This can be done at [www.festivalofillumination.com](http://www.festivalofillumination.com) or [www.southwickzoo.com](http://www.southwickzoo.com).



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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 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 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 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 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.

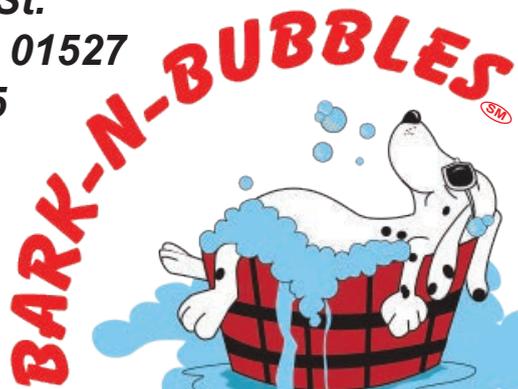


Luke, "the cutest puppy ever," settles in at the Green Mountain Suites in Vermont for his first vacation, and spends time with mom in Burlington, shopping.

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by Kelly Hauk



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"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

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LUKE

continued on page 25

**LUKE**

*continued from page 24*

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

his puppy brothers? The vehicle sights and sounds 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



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

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*

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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 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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# Ask dealer to check transmission codes for engine vibration



BY JOHN PAUL

**Q.** I have a 2015 Kia Optima with 66,000 miles on it which has had all its recommended maintenance by a dealership. It drives really well except in one respect. At slower speeds in city driving, I experience a noticeable engine vibration that is sustained whenever the tachometer remains very narrowly at or close to 1100 RPMs. It feels like the engine is lugging, if that's the correct term. It relents only if I let up on the gas or depress the pedal further to accelerate past the vibrating. In other words, I can't maintain a steady speed at 1100 RPM without the shake. I actually did mention this to the dealership at my 60,000-mile service, but they did nothing to diagnose it and I didn't pursue it further. What do you think could be causing this?

**A.** I would go back to the dealer and have them check for transmission codes. What you are describing sounds like the transmission torque converter is staying locked up, this is sometimes called "chug-

gle". Kia did come out with an update to a part called a damper clutch solenoid which may cure the issue. In addition, this could also be a combination of the transmission design and the beginning of a very slight engine misfire. At 66,000 miles if one of the spark plugs is getting a bit worn, this could also exaggerate the condition.

**Q.** Several weeks ago, my 17-year-old son, purchased a car for \$4500. The car, a BMW, actually seemed to be a good deal, but he then returned to the same seller in the hope of getting a different color. The second car turned out to have a fraudulent title as well as an odometer that had been turned back. We discovered this through a Carfax report. I was informed by both my son and his mother that they attempted to get even some of their money back and return the car, but the seller refused and at this point may have actually even blocked their phone numbers. Do you have any suggestions as to how we might proceed to rectify this issue/problem?

**A.** The first thing that needs to be determined is if the seller was a legitimate car dealer or someone who just buys and sells cars without a license. The seller may be someone who just "jumps" titles selling a car they purchased without re-titling it in their name. Depending on where you live, state agencies rarely get involved in private party sales. If they are a legitimate car dealer you may be able to get some help through a dealer organization or the Attorney General in your state. Odometer and title fraud are subject to both state and federal laws and can carry serious fines. At this point you may need to contact an attorney that specializes in automobile fraud.

**Q.** I have a 2006 Ford Mustang convertible which is in great condition but makes a clunking noise which can't be located. I have had the car checked over, but all the parts seem to be in good shape.

**A.** I would take one more look at all of the suspension components including the

front struts and strut bearings. At 16 years old there could also be some wear in the steering column. Your Mustang like many cars uses two flexible joints that connect the steering column to the rack and pinion steer gear. If one of this joints is worn, there will be a clunk.

**Q.** I have a 2008 Toyota Prius with 155,000 miles on it. It is in good condition for its age, but it will need a catalytic converter. The car drives fine, it is just noisy. Any idea how much I should ask for the car and where I should list it for sale?

**A.** I would list the car in [www.cargurus.com](http://www.cargurus.com), [www.iseeCars.com](http://www.iseeCars.com) and even Facebook marketplace. Determining the price is a little tricky. The going price for this model is \$7000-\$9000 depending on condition. I'm sure you have a price on a

new exhaust and catalytic converter, which can cost up to \$2500 depending on where you take the car for service. I would scan the ads on Cargurus, IseeCars and other websites and try to find a match to your car and price it accordingly. My guess is around \$6500 is about right but used car prices are still crazy. What makes this car a bit less desirable is with any used hybrid potential buyers are going to be concerned about the hybrid battery life. Although the buyer may be willing to take a

chance on a car that gets 50 miles per gallon.

*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](mailto:jpaul@aaanortheast.com). Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, [mrjohnfpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnfpaul).*

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# Multiple spirits haunt the Shanley Hotel – Part II

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Here is the second part of the two-part series on the haunted Shanley Hotel in upstate New York.

In 2001 the property was purchased and renovated by Salvatore Nicosia. Sadly Salvatore passed away in 2017, and one year later, the building was once again

abandoned and up for sale. It reopened under new management in 2018 and has since become a destination for paranormal enthusiasts. Connecticut Paranormal Research Team founder Christine Peer worked with Sal at the hotel on weekends for eight years. She and her husband, Dan, witnessed countless paranormal phenomena.

According to Christine, in 1915, Dr. Walter Nelson Thayer backed his car out of the alley between his home and the hotel and accidentally ran over a boy named Jonathan. Jonathan was taken to his third-floor room, where he died a few days later. His body was taken for burial, but his spirit remained, and to this day, he is one of the more active ghosts in the ho-

tel. Jonathan's spirit became attached to Christine more than the others. The husband and wife research team would learn much more about the Shanley during their tenure there. Christine stated, "not only are there residual haunts, most of the haunts are intelligent. Each night the occurrences guests and [I] experienced would always be different. It was like the hotel was still in operation to the deceased that once visited. You never knew which spirit was going to come through and let you know they were there. I, along with several guests, have experienced seeing an apparition somewhere in the building, hearing footsteps going up and down the hallways when everyone is in one location together and seeing and hearing door knobs turning and doors opening or closing on their own."

Christine would help get the rooms ready for the arrival of guests. She considered those moments "quality

time" with the spirits who would often call her name or use other ways to let her know they were there with her. One strange incident in particular sometimes happened while she was folding laundry downstairs.

She would hear a ball bouncing on the staircase in the hall. As she approached the staircase, she would watch the ball roll from the third-floor landing, turn the corner, bounce down the stairs to the second floor, and eventually roll into the room where she was folding the laundry. She would carry the ball back up the stairs and place it back in the room where Jonathan died. Within a few minutes, the ball would come rolling back into the room she was working in. It appeared that Jonathan felt like playing a game.

One time, while her daughters were staying the weekend, Christine decided to give them a tour of the third-floor rooms. As soon as they came to Jonathan's

room, they all heard a little boy's voice say, "Don't be scared; come in and play." Her daughters became frightened and ran back downstairs. They would later ask to buy toys for the little ghost boy so he would have something to play with. Guests also began to bring toys for both Jonathan and Rosie.

Christine, Dan, and their paranormal research team continue to make the Shanley Hotel their home base. They are always excited about visiting there because they never know who will "pop by" to visit and chat with them.

The hotel has 35 rooms, secret passages, a basement, an attic, quite an illustrious history, and plenty of ghosts. Guests can bring their own equipment, or it is furnished for use. The hotel also has ghost hunting equipment in the gift shop for sale. No weapons or alcohol are allowed on the premises. For more information and booking, go to [www.thehaunted-shanleyhotel.com](http://www.thehaunted-shanleyhotel.com).



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## 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 Pumpkin 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](http://TheBigE.com).



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## SPORTS

# Sutton goalie will take her talents to the next level

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Playing field hockey for Caroline Lambert all began in the seventh grade. Prior to the introduction to the sport, she had never picked up a stick or thought about the sport. When she got to the seventh grade in the Sutton Public School system she was given the chance to either play one of a minimal number of sports; she gravitated toward field hockey.

"Seventh graders were allowed to play certain sports on the high school level," Lambert said. "A lot of my friends were going to soccer as that is what they had played. I was into dance, so I decided to try field hockey."

As an athlete newly introduced to the sport Lambert wanted to try every position possible as she really didn't know where she wanted to play or would fit in. It wasn't until she was playing some pick-up games during the winter months with her friends to not only stay active but improve their skills when she first played goalie. It didn't take long and soon she was infatuated with the position.

"I love the competition of the game and being active," she said. "Playing goalie gave me this amazing adrenaline rush as I was more involved, and I could see everything that was happening on the entire field."

As she was entering the eighth grade Lambert realized that field hockey was something that she would definitely be interested in playing in college so she

joined a club team, the Cape Ann Field Hockey Club out of Worcester, so she could hone her skills. Playing with the club team not only helped her with her improvement but it also eventually led to a verbal commitment with the University of New Haven in Connecticut to play goalie with the field hockey team.

To get to the point that the Connecticut school would ask her to join their team Lambert had to take her newfound love and learn as much about the sport and position as she could. During those first two years while she was in middle school playing for the junior varsity team, she found that everything she was doing was experimental as she tried to figure everything out.

Lambert felt that she was a good communicator and needed to build a trust with her defenders.

"I was working on my overall skill set and wanted to show them that I trusted them as much as they trusted me," the college-bound athlete said. "I needed to be my best and at that time I really didn't have a lot of tools in my toolbox. I was young and didn't know the position all that well yet but the training with my club team really helped me get ready for high school field hockey."

As a freshman entering Sutton High School, Lambert made the varsity team as a back-up goalie despite being very nervous.

"As a freshman she came in confident and with a lot of experience due to her playing year-round and attending a lot of camps," Sutton Field Hockey Coach Sarah Bellavance said.

"That year she had such a good group of leaders above her, and she bought into our plans and never wavered from what she was doing."

Sutton finished Lambert's freshman campaign 15-1-2, earning the number one seed in the Division 2 Central Tournament. The Susies eventually lost to Oakmont in the semifinals.

Coming off a successful season, Sutton was looking to improve upon its semifinals appearance, but Covid struck, and everything was turned upside down.

"My sophomore year was when colleges could start reaching out, but I really didn't get to showcase my talents that year because of the pandemic," Lambert said. "We played the same teams that were close to us and there was no Sectional or State Tournaments. I really didn't feel cheated as I was a sophomore with two more years, but I really felt bad for the seniors that missed out on so much that year."

As a junior last fall and now playing under the new MIAA power rankings Sutton earned a five seed as they entered the Division 4 State Championships. The Susies defeated Carver 5-0 in the first round and then edged out Hamilton-Wenham 1-0 before falling 2-1 to Ipswich in the Round of 8.

As one of three Sutton seniors to take the field this fall, Coach Bellavance is looking for Lambert to be a prominent leader. According to the coach, she is the voice that drives the defense, and the girls look up to her.

"She's made mistakes through the years, but it has

*Goalie Caroline Lambert is looking to finish up her field hockey career at Sutton High in strong fashion.*



helped her learn and grow," Bellavance said. "She takes constructive criticism to heart no matter how harsh it may be. She is going to be a big part of us bouncing back and having another good season and making a Central Mass run."

Coming into her final season with Sutton, Lambert is hoping to just go out

onto the field while playing the best that she possibly can.

"With only three seniors on this year's team we are young, and the year is going to be a rebuilding one of sorts," Lambert said. "I want to keep the field hockey tradition strong at Sutton and go as far as we possibly can."

Despite having a rather young team (17 freshmen and sophomores) take the field this year Coach Bellavance firmly believes that the team will win at least 50% of their games and qualify for the tournament and Lambert will be one of the seniors to lead them.



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# 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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AUTO  
DETAIL

# Busy, spooky October at Grafton Public Library

Ghost stories, LEGO, yoga, and... goats? There is something for everyone in October in the children's room of the Grafton Public Library!

On Saturday, October 1st, the Tumblebus will be parked at the Grafton Public Library. Tumblebus is a fully padded converted school bus that is filled with gymnastics equipment to provide a safe and fun environment for children ages 2-7. This program is drop-in, first come, first served. Only a small group of children will be allowed to enter the Tumblebus at a time.

Ms. Kayla from Apple Tree Arts will visit the Library for a Music and Movement program for children aged two and up on Monday October 3rd at 10:30am. Registration is required.

Join us for storytime every week in October! Drop in for Library Babies on Tuesdays at 9:15am or Toddler Time, for walkers through age three, on Wednesdays at 9:15am. Preschool Storytime is held on Thursdays at 9:15am. Registration is required.

On Wednesday, October 12th at 3:30pm, join us at the Willard House & Clock Museum for a special storytime and a tour of the museum's beautiful grounds. This program is for preschoolers ages three through five. Registration is required.

Young Scientists, the STEAM storytime run by STEM Beginnings, returns in October. Children aged three through six will learn STEAM concepts through hands-on activities, story time and simple experiments. Young Scientist starts on Friday, October 7th at 10:30am. Registration is required.

The "Young Scientists" series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Older kids can join us for Comic Creator Club or join one of the three Bookworms book discussion groups. All four programs

meet on Tuesday, October 11th. Please adhere to age requirements when registering. See [graffon-library.org/events](http://graffon-library.org/events) to see what books each age group will be reading this month. Books can be picked up at the library.

Feeling creative? Drop in to LEGO Brickbuilders every Tuesday in October from 3:30-4:30pm. Feeling artistic? Drop in and create autumnal art on Tuesday, October 18th and Thursday, October 20th from 5:30-7:00pm.

Join us for a week's work of wellness events, partially funded from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester. Mindfulness and Yoga for Kids will be held on Wednesday, October 19th at 4:00pm. Join us for a Children's Movement class on Saturday, October 22nd, at 10:30am. Both programs are for children aged six through ten. Registration is required. Drop by the library on Saturday, October 29th to feed and cuddle baby goats. This drop-in program is for all

ages. Please note—only a handful of people will be allowed to enter the goat pen at a time.

The library will be celebrating the spooky season all month long! Drop in to create a monstrous craft on Tuesday, October 25th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. We'll be telling Ghost Stories on Thursday, October

27th at 6:00pm. We will dim the lights and gather around our campfire to hear some tales to give you chills!

On Halloween, Trick or Treat at the Library! Celebrate the spookiest holiday by stopping by the Grafton Public Library on October 31 to pick up special Halloween treats.

Visit each desk for a unique treat. Treats will be allergen free.

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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MAYTAG TOP FREEZER 18 CU.FT.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$749<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WAS \$899.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AMANA GAS RANGE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$599<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">#AGR1533CBAS STAINLESS STEEL WAS \$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GE FRONT LOAD WASHER</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$799<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">#GFWSS0SSNWW WAS \$999.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GE ELECTRIC STOVE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$899<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">#JB735SPSS WAS \$999.99</p>
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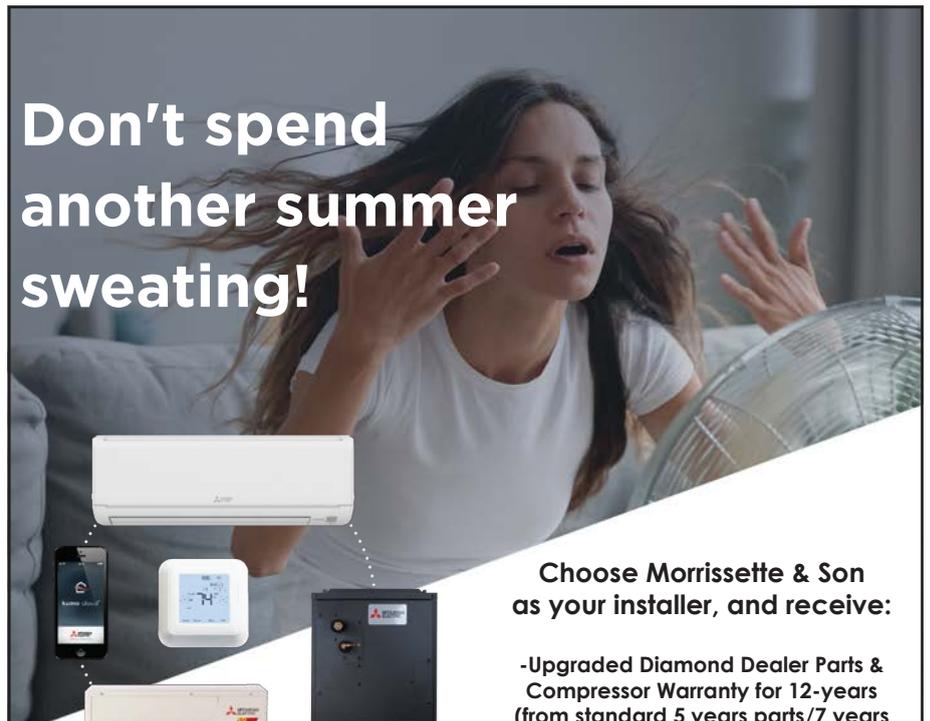
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