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November 4 - December 2, 2022

WDBA meeting boosts SSE's prospects for more events

BY ROD LEE

The prevailing mood during the annual meeting of the Webster Dudley Business Alliance on October 19th was appreciation for the setting: the new Samuel Slater Experience on Ray Street in Webster.

As host for the evening, Barbara Van Reed expressed a hope that more groups like the WDBA will take advantage of the chance to mix and mingle in a museum brimming with interactive exhibits showcasing the life and times of the founder of the American Industrial Revolution.

In expressing thanks as she accepted a plaque from WDBA President Lucas Perzan of Insation Technologies in Webster in recognition of the SSE's first year of operation, Ms. Van Reed said "we are glad you are here. We need more events!"

Prestige Salon & Day Spa, a new business in town, and Marty's of Dudley, a longtime presence, were also honored with plaques.

Marty's supplied the night's beverages, dutifully dispensed by Mark Marzeotti of the Marzeotti Realty Group. Big Belly Café in Webster provided the food.

When it comes to getting companies and organizations to join schools, senior centers and others in sampling the Samuel Slater Experience as a venue, museum staffers are already making progress.

An example of this will occur on Friday, November 4th with "Night at the Museum: Silent Movies with Richard Hughes," from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a free event but pre-registration is encouraged, at admin@samuel-slaterexperience.org. Popcorn and a cash bar will be available.

The opportunity to watch two silent movie classics with



Lucas Perzan, re-elected president of the Webster Dudley Business Alliance, is joined by Kim Labbe, treasurer, Tamera Taft, director, Nancy Healy, alternate director, Jess Sabine, director, Carl Kaliszewski, vice president, Deb Horan, director, and Mark Marzeotti, secretary at the WDBA's annual meeting at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. Director Halina Jachimczak was not able to attend. Photo by Sally Patterson

Mr. Hughes providing musical accompaniment on the piano is exactly the kind of attraction that Ms. Van Reed and her colleagues know will enhance the museum's appeal to visitors.

The choice of films for Night at the Museum will go far in bringing to life the adventure, drama, romance and comedy that characterized the silent movies of the early 1900s in the Liberty Theater along the re-creation of Main St.—one of the museum's most popular exhibits.

Charlie Chaplin's "The Immigrant" is considered by critics and enthusiasts to be among his best work. "Sherlock Jr." starring Buster Keaton has been named one of the American Film Institute's funniest movies of all time.

Networking that preceded the business portion of the WDBA's annual meeting included discussion among the principals involved about why there is no hotel in the town of Webster; the growth that has been experienced in nearby Putnam; and Webster in

the days of yore.

"In the last ten years, Putnam has really taken off," Dan Bennett of DBC Solutions, which specializes in residential remodeling and outdoor living, said. Mr. Bennett is president of the Thompson Business Association.

"I remember going roller skating on the second floor (of a building) on Main St.," Deb Horan, owner of Booklovers' Gourmet, said.

Ms. Horan's store at 72 E. Main St. in Webster will host the next gathering of the Webster Dudley Business Alliance, a holiday party from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6th.

With the WDBA certain to return to the Samuel Slater Experience, the museum is gradually building interest in after-hours events.

For more information about the Alliance, go to thewdba.org.

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

Water Lily by the lake, a boutique, caters to you

BY JANET STOICA

It's refreshing to have a new retail outlet in the area that is willing to go the extra mile for its customers. This is what Amber Stewart's goal is as proprietor of Water Lily by the lake, a unique women's boutique in Webster. It's okay to bring your children here.

There's a little cozy corner designated just for their imaginations while moms, grams, aunties, and young ladies shop the eclectic mix of new clothing Ms. Stewart has chosen for her clientele to browse through. Inventory changes weekly with new arrivals daily. How exciting!

A cause for celebration perhaps. There is something for all age groups from 20 years old to 90 years young. Casual clothing to office attire. It's a calming and relaxing atmosphere from the mint-fresh walls to the soothing lighting effects blended with lots of natural illumination from the generous front windows. Friendly and unpretentious for sure.

"Water Lily became a women's boutique by chance but it has become so much more than that now," says Ms. Stewart. "My husband Wayne and I bought this property as an investment with the intent of renting it out. One day I mentioned that this place would be a good spot for a boutique and here we are." Amber's

first passion, however, is teaching, which she has happily engaged in for the past fifteen years. She is a third-grade teacher at the Heritage School, part of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. "My first-grade teacher, Mrs. Day, made a lasting impression on me when I was a student in the Connecticut school system," she said,



Amber Stewart, owner of Water Lily by the lake, holds a Jomanda Baby Soother.

"and I really enjoy my young and enthusiastic students today."

Amber's husband, who owns his own plumbing business, and remodelers, played a large role in converting the building to its present state. The Stewarts make their home in Sutton and have two young sons aged nine and seven. There is a beautiful and peaceful

WATER LILY
continued on page 2

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WATER LILY

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pond on their residential property replete with flowering water lilies much like the local Webster Lake. Their visually calming effect is similar to the atmosphere here and, therefore, the name Water Lily symbolizes the store's serenity but also some of its playfulness with many unique and one-of-a-kind gifts from facial masks and body lotions to coffee mugs inscribed with humorous expressions.

"We have a wide variety of new and fashionable clothing and products here for all ages," said Ms. Stewart, "I didn't want to cater to just one body size. We're all different. We have all styles, all comfort levels,

and all price points. Most items are in the \$30-\$40 range but additional items are lower and some higher in price.

Our mix consists of casual, work clothes like dress slacks, dressy tops, sweat-shirts, cardigans, lounge wear, even tee shirts and casual shoes. Our jewelry is a big seller. We have a natural deodorant line that is aluminum-free, called SmartyPits. The brand also donates to breast cancer research with the purchase of each product. There's also another big seller and that's the Dammit Doll... um...darn it. A whimsical



take-off on the stress ball of yore. These 12-inch soft and whack-able dolls are used to take out your frustrations on anything nearby



when you're frustrated. Just grab it and start whacking, dammit!"

There are candles, bath bombs, gel facial relaxers, scrunchies, and headbands. Cute shatter-proof stemless wine goblets, handbags, purses, and their best-selling comfy blankets suitable for those cooler nights when you need an extra coverlet. Their size is excellent too spanning 50" x 80" instead of the usual 50" x 60" dimensions. One unique product line Water

Lily offers is Jomanda. Imported from England, these baby soothers are small, softer than soft plush mini-blankets of sorts with a baby lamb attachment. Babies will find them to be just their size to grab, hold, and cuddle with. Of course, gift cards are always available and never go out of style. With the holidays fast approaching, gift wrapping will soon be available as well.

You can't miss their building on Thompson Road in Webster. A beauti-

ful water lily mural covers the entire length of their building. Stunning!

Water Lily by the lake, 195 Thompson Road, Webster MA 01570. Phone: (508) 461-7444. On Instagram and Facebook: @waterlilywebster. Email: waterlilywebster@gmail.com Hours: Mon/Tues Closed; Wed-Sat 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

Women's Success Network delivers a boatload of fun



An invitation from Pat Hurton to join members of the Women's Success Network (WSN) for an evening "charter cruise" of Webster Lake on the Indian Princess gave me momentary pause.

There was an initial hesitation, governed by the feeling that I would be "a duck out of water"—so to speak.

Not to worry. There was not only the warm welcome extended by Ms. Hurton, Jeannie Hebert, Alise Breton and others in attendance, there was the chance to experience Chris Robert's paddleboat for the second time in the past several years.

Doing so, the thought that inevitably came to mind—as I'm sure it did for the WSN'ers—was "what was all the fuss about? Why was there such an uproar and so much consternation, so much opposition, when Mr. Robert first proposed the idea of putting such a craft on "Lake Chaubunagungamaug"?

Many of residents of the lake who resisted Mr. Robert's plan "have been on the boat" themselves since the tumult settled down, David Balessandro told me. We were standing on the lower deck just outside an enclosed area that features a bar, the galley, two "heads"

and a full-screen TV.

The 59-ton vessel, propelled by two stern wheels, was moving smoothly and quietly through the water.

A mid-October night that had started with temperatures near 70 degrees was still perfectly comfortable and when a breeze with a chill in it kicked up people topside were advised by "Mary," a deck hand, to move to a spot behind the control room "and you'll be nice and warm."



Representing Karl Storz Endovision Inc. at the Women's Success Network tour of Webster Lake on the Indian Princess were Michelle Cristo, Bobbie Gavin, Natalia Martinez, Janet Simpkins and Miranda Grendell.

Ms. Hebert of the host Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce was one of the first to climb the stairs to the upper deck from the lower floor, where drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served. "Come on up," she said over the loudspeaker. "It's a great view!"

Mr. Balessandro is known as "Diver Dave" for his scuba-diving expertise. "I also hold a captain's

license," he said. He was enjoying filling members of the Women's Success Network in on the nuances of the lake, which is dotted with homes all around. Passing these, he returned waves and whistles from people hailing the Indian Princess from their front porch, some of them tending steaks on the grill. "That's Waterfront Mary's," he noted, pointing to a popular restaurant and its bright lights. "We're in

will help me step out of my comfort zone, personally as well as professionally," Ms. Archambault said. "Connecting with other women, making new friendships and sharing ideas on how we can help one another is what I am most looking forward to."

"I believe that Green Compass can impact people's lives for the better and I love sharing the message of how women can start their own business to help contribute financially to the family. Whether they are a stay-at-home mom, work full-time or part-time, or are recently retired, this business is for everyone, at any age."

"I started with Green Compass because I saw how its products really make a difference in someone's quality of life. I love helping people feel better!"

Green Compass's operation is "vertically integrated," she said. In other words, the company controls the entire process, from when the seeds are put in the ground on the farm it owns "to the product that arrives at your doorstep."

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"We're moving!" Carol Dauphinais of the Grafton Country Store said, as the Indian Princess left port.

"What a fun evening!" Heather McGuire of Sundance Newbridge Publishing wrote Ms. Hurton in

an email after the event. "Thank you for being so kind to me, and taking time to introduce me to some new people. I am really enjoying being part of this network."

Ms. McGuire told me on the boat that Sundance, which is based in Marlborough, publishes educational and children's books. She is a sales consultant.

"It's a good industry," she said. "Teachers are a caring group of people."

For more information about the Women's Success Network and upcoming WSN events like "Commerce on the Common" in Grafton, go to blackstonevalley.org.

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

Saloon 6 Bar & Eatery is Webster's nod to Wild Bill Hickock

BY JANET STOICA

Did someone say Wild Bill Hickok? Nope, he's not in right now. But is there someone else who can help you at Saloon 6? How about the on-point staff of cooks, waiters, and bartenders? Ahhh yes, at last there is another well-run and efficient restaurant in the Webster environs and the owners are no beginners to the restaurant trade. Bob Zalewski and Eric Gulkin are partners in this newest dining venture. Mr. Zalewski used to run the Doc Holliday Restaurant at the same location a number of years ago. Both partners knew what they needed and wanted on their staff

and menu. The goal? Good and delicious portions of food served up well for the amount paid. And, it seems to be working.

Their menu is extensive from a fried Fisherman's Platter filled with had-dock, scallops, whole-belly clams, and shrimp served with hand-cut fries and house coleslaw to a 14-oz. prime rib and everything in-between including homemade pizzas and BLTs. Appetizers include calamari with hot pepper rings to salmon cakes served over farmer's salsa topped with cilantro aioli, even boneless spicy maple chicken wings. Desserts are few but simply delicious like their house-made whoopie pie with ice

cream and whipped cream. Hungry yet?

"We've had so many diners visiting us that we've been running out of food. We are happy to use only local food service vendors and they have accommodated us in our crunch times. We pride ourselves on good quality food at a fair price," said Mr. Zalewski. "We've planned a good variety to our menu. Our pizza dough is made fresh daily and proofs overnight for the next day so when we run out, that's it until tomorrow. Our juicy fried chicken and waffles is a big hit with our customers as well as our good-sized burgers, home-made fried mozzarella slices, and fresh-cut fries.

All of our food is made fresh daily." Bob also notes that the staff is absolutely phenomenal and all areas are kept very sanitary and up to code. Tracy Sweeney is the restaurant manager. Additionally, they are in process of installing acoustical ceiling tiles to create a more pleasant restaurant experience.

Live weekend entertainment has begun on Saturdays from 9-11 p.m. with a late night menu during entertainment hours.

But Saloon 6. What's up with the name? Both Eric Gulkin and Bob Zalewski appreciate western themes so, if you've ever been to Wild Bill Hickok's haunt out west, you'd know that right off



Opened recently, Saloon 6 Bar & Eatery with its Old West theme is already making a big hit in Webster.

Interstate 90 in Deadwood, South Dakota is a place named Legendary Old Style Saloon No. 10 famously and traditionally known as the stomping grounds for America's Old West legend, Wild Bill Hickok. Here is where Bill met his maker. They say he was gunned down playing poker in 1876. He held a two-pair poker hand of aces and eights along with a nine of diamonds that has come to be known as a Dead Man's Hand. So, if you're ready for an adventure, hop on your steed and gallop your way down the Mass Pike West, otherwise known as I-90, all the way to Deadwood where you certainly won't be disappointed as re-enactments of Wild Bill's last moments are held daily. The atmosphere is pretty authentic. By the time you return to the humbler surroundings of Webster, you'll be ready to chow down on some of the best food east of Deadwood and your belly will thank

you for it. Oh, and you won't see any tumbleweeds rolling through their parking lot as diners' vehicles are packing the place daily. A very fortuitous outcome for the owners and staff. The time must pass quickly for their culinary and wait staff with non-stop orders being cooked up and served up for their customers' welcoming appetites. They probably could use a chuck wagon out back!

Saloon 6 Bar & Eatery, 141 Worcester Road, Webster MA 01570. Phone: (508) 461-7216.

Hours: Sun-Wed 11:30-11 p.m. Kitchen closes at 9 p.m.; Thurs/Fri/Sat open until 1 a.m. Kitchen open until 11 p.m. with late night menu from 9-11 p.m. Find them on Facebook.

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Dudley Vietnam vet Randall Snow is Grand Marshal for parade

Veterans of Webster and Dudley will hold their 17th annual Veterans Day parade this year on Friday, November 11th.

In addition and prior to the regularly scheduled parade, veterans encourage everyone to attend a brief ceremonial tribute to local veterans who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II at the monument located at the Memorial Beach entryway off Thompson Road. Veterans will also be placing a wreath at the newly erected Women's Veterans monument. This ceremony will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Upon completion of the tribute, veterans will go by bus from the St. Louis School parking lot to the Dudley Municipal Complex for ceremonies beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Veterans will then march from Dudley to the Webster Court of Honor on Main St. for a similar remembrance.

All scouting organizations that plan to participate are asked to meet at the Dudley Municipal Complex at 10:45 a.m.

This year's Grand Marshal will be Specialist E-4 Randolph P. Snow, an Army Vietnam veteran, who will be recognized for his service.

BY DONALD WAYMAN

Tam Biet! Goodbyes are emotional in any language. Randolph Paul Snow, Vietnam veteran, will relive those emotions as he leads the "Brotherhood" in a parade down Main St. on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022.

This is the story of Randy, the eldest of three boys in a typical Worcester family, living on Amber St. He was an active kid, playing seasonal sports while attending school at St. Peter's. As a teen he had a role in the class play and sang solo in the Glee Club. He was no wallflower.

Randy worked at a lumber yard after school and in a hospital kitchen on weekends. After graduation from high school in 1966 he studied at Quinsigamond Community College.

There was a bloody war going on in Vietnam, a long way from home. Randy volunteered for the draft and was inducted in mid-December of 1967.

The U.S. Army promised



"TRAVEL"...to Fort Dix for eight weeks of basic training, also called "indoctrination" into Army life: obey orders, stay in shape and remember the oath. Two months later the recruits were at Ft. Sill, Comanche County, Oklahoma, for an additional eight weeks of specialized training in the use of artillery, the big guns. It came as no surprise when VIETNAM appeared on Randy's itinerary. It would be a long and uneasy flight to where the killing and the dying took place.

"Snowy" and a planeload of young men just like himself landed at Tan Son Nhut Air base near Saigon in May of 1968. The air was thick, the heat was draining and the smell was sickening. A truckload of casualties was being offloaded at the base hospital. Some were treatable, most were not. It put a lump in a soldier's throat realizing that you were replacing a man covered with blood and mud.

Pvt. Snow was assigned to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery, the gunner on a crew of five, manning a self-propelled eight-inch howitzer, lightly armored, but sufficient. Enemy mortars were their nemesis. The cannon had a ten-mile range and could fire off a projectile every two minutes or less. The vehicle was capable of 30 miles per hour when it was prudent to leave the scene, i.e., Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc and Ben Luc. These battles were considered "Adventure" in Draft Board vernacular back in

Worcester, the Heart of the Commonwealth, the home of candlepin bowling, the monkey wrench and the Smiley Face!

Randy utilized the Free Health Care clause of his enlistment agreement at a hospital in Japan. Serious injuries suffered in an accident kept him out of the kill zone for a considerable period of time. Upon returning to duty "Snowy" was assigned to 5th Battalion 2nd Artillery. The Mission: Ground Support, Perimeter Defense of Base Camps, and Convoy Security.

The good news: Snowy was now a short timer, his time in hell was expiring. The plan: stay low, stay alive and do not volunteer. When Randy's military commitment had been fulfilled, his orders arrived and a replacement was on the way.

Tambiet! It was time for "goodbyes," the heavy weight of war had been lifted from his soul, he had survived, now he could breathe again. There would be no more mortar attacks and no fear of ambush, there was also a genuine sense of sadness, despondence over leaving his buddies to continue the fight, the survivor guilt, and the question of WHO decides which ones die...and which ones live?

The charter flight back to the United States was comfortable, full of excitement and packed with emotion. The exhausted and haggard Brotherhood of Shared Experiences was heading home!

Snowy arrived at the Army Personnel Center, Oakland, California, where he was honorably



Left, the fiery blowback of a howitzer was somewhat dangerous if anyone got out of position. This is the type of gun Mr. Snow was assigned to, a "self-propelled eight-inch howitzer."

Inset, Specialist E-4 Randy Snow in Vietnam.

Above, Parade Grand Marshal Randolph P. Snow.

discharged after nineteen months of active service including fourteen months in 'Nam. It was time for a vacation and relaxation. It was time to pause and smell the roses and forget the suffocating stench of Vietnam...and rats.

Separation only means that you came home alive. For the combat soldier the war never ends. Many vets were hard pressed to transition back to civilian life. Statistics show that adjustment periods are directly proportional to battlefield experiences.

After a year Randy returned to his studies. Using the G.I. Bill, he worked as a bank messenger, bank teller and mortgage lender. He took night classes at Fairfield University in Connecticut and became proficient in his chosen field of business while working at area banks. He retired as senior vice president of

mortgage banking.

E4 Randolph Snow holds membership in the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (chaplain), Veterans of Foreign Wars (Sr. vice commander) and Veterans Council Funeral Squad Honor Guard. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three Battle Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device and Sharpshooter Badge and Auto Rifle Bar.

Randy and his wife, Paula, reside in Dudley. They have three children, Kimberly, Matthew and Nicole.

Veterans Day Parade chairman is Richard J. Holewa with co-chairmen Andy Koslowski, Victor Jankowski and Ron Prest.



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Dudley Grange's Apple Festival good to the core

BY ROD LEE

With agricultural roots going back one hundred and thirty five years as of next April, Dudley Grange #163 quite appropriately presents events associated with farming and the equipment used for that purpose.

So it was that the Grange held its annual Apple Festival at its home on Center Road on October 1st, as it did a Strawberry Festival several months earlier.

Both are popular.

Despite the threat of intermittent rain, the turn-



games, the Fire Department's smokehouse, Ray Sullivan demonstrating how an antique apple press works in front of the building, live music, crafts and vendors, there was plenty of reason to sample the goings-on.

Mr. Sullivan also helps "with the frog jumping" at the Strawberry Festival, Ms. Gillon said.

"We did OK," she said. "We made a profit, to pay



Scenes from Dudley Grange #163's Apple Festival include Dawn Beatty, Lenny Beatty and Laura Robbins at work inside the Hall, Bob Hanacek serving up French fries and the Old Fiddler's Club of Rhode Island performing.

out for the Apple Festival was strong, Karen-Beth Gillon, an officer of the Grange and co-chair of the production, said. "We had a good line of traffic, people came out for the apple crisp. We sold out of apple crisp by two o'clock."

Featuring an assortment of activities, including a petting zoo, children's

our bills."

The Apple Fest was made possible by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Dudley Cultural Council, Ms. Gillon noted.

Dudley Grange #163 is looking forward to providing a music series next summer, Ms. Gillon said.

Terry Burke DOTSON

State Representative

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I served **HONORABLY** for **33 years** in the **Military Reserve (USANG, USAFR, USNR, USMC)** with **100% Attendance.**

I SUPPORT:

- Candidate **NOMINATION REFORM**
- In-Person and Mail-in **VOTING REFORM**
- Valid **CITIZENSHIP ID** for Voting
- **DIFFERENT DRIVER'S LICENSE** for Non-Citizens, if this is the will of the voters of Massachusetts
- **SECOND AMENDMENT** with responsible gun ownership
- **FULL FUNDING** with addition training for Local and State **POLICE**
- Better access to **MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS & SOCIAL WORKERS**
- Better access to **AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE**
- Better access to **VETERANS' BENEFITS**
- **REDUCED & FROZEN** Real Estate **TAXES** for Senior Citizens on SSI and near poverty level
- **LOWERED COSTS** for State Secondary Education
- Reduced interest Rates on **STUDENT LOANS**
- Increased **PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- **LAW & ORDER**

Qualifications:

Political experience including 18 years on the Millbury Planning Board, delegate to CMRPC, Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission, member of Millbury's Ponds & Lakes Commission, member of Millbury Master Plan Committee, Millbury Youth Commission, Local Housing Partnership, Fair Housing Committee, EMF Study Committee, and Water Study Committee.



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NOVEMBER 25

10-5

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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.

pencils), boxes of holiday and greeting cards, and gas, grocery and pharmacy gift cards (drop off or mail to the Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville MA 01588). Drop-off locations are: UniBank-BV branches, Blackstone,



Heather Glode is owner of LuLu's, a gifts and jewelry store at 68 Church St., Whitinsville. LuLu's is always a popular stop during Shop Small 01588, which starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving and runs through December 3rd.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 15
• The Women's Success Network of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Senior Collection Drive is accepting donations of all of the following for elders in need: toiletries, paper goods, cleaning supplies, activity items (large-print books, puzzles, game books, adult coloring books, colored

Douglas, Grafton, Whitinsville Main Office, Whitinsville Plaza, Sutton North, Upton, Uxbridge; all Millbury Federal Credit Union branches; all Homefield Credit Union branches; Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, 670 Linwood Ave., Suite 5, Whitinsville; Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. For pickup and

Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**

delivery options email administrator@blackstonevalley.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

• "A Night at the Museum: Silent Movies," with Pianist and Historian Richard Hughes, will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster. Two films will be featured at this free event: Charlie Chaplin's The Immigrant, and Sherlock Jr. starring Buster Keaton. Attendees will be transported back to Main St. in Webster, circa 1916, when black-and-white movies accompanied by piano music were popular. Reservations are encouraged; samuelslaterexperience.org.

NOVEMBER 4-5

• The Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster will host "Mini-Golf in the Stacks," featuring a putting course set up between the bookshelves. On Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. the event will be for adults only with a minimum donation of \$10 per person. Beer, wine and soda will be offered for a small fee Snacks will be free. Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is for families with a \$5 donation for adults and no admission charge for children. All donations will go directly to the library to fund future events.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

• The Uxbridge Lions Club's Shred Event returns from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the VFW parking lot at Rt. 16 and Cross Rd. Bring documents, files, old checks and mail to be securely shredded and recycled. For a donation of \$5.00 for a copy paper-sized box or for each electronic device, Pellegrino Trucking will shred and send for recycling the paper products while OnSite Computers will handle the secure destruction of electronic devices including computers, phones,

electrical cords, DVDs, cameras, USVB cables, flat-screen monitors, keyboards, radios and stereos.

St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge will host its Annual Holiday Bazaar from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 39 Church Ave. There will be a White Elephant Table, a Baked Goods Table, and Craft Tables with handmade items including quilts.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

• The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Al Carter 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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

• A Lunch and Learn program featuring a visit by Blackstone Valley Physical Therapy Associates will be held at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Instruction will be provided on safely using assistive devices that are often recommended after falls or setbacks. Sign up at the front desk.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

• The Douglas Historical Society is hosting a night to thank veterans for their service and to view "A Touch of Home," about the "Donut Dollies" who supported our troops in Vietnam at 7:00 p.m. at the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum on Main St.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

• A Fundraiser for Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE) featuring "A Night of Spirit Messages" with Dr. Cathy Ripley Greene, psychic medium, will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 77 Prescott St., Whitinsville. Tickets are \$50. There will be a cash bar and snacks

will be provided. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

• St. Denis Church's Holiday Fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 23 Manchaug Rd., Douglas, featuring crafts, raffles, baked goods and a kids table. Luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Vendor spaces are available. Go to SaintDenisChurch.com for more info and updates. Online! . . . coming soon. . . baskets in our holiday raffle; tickets are \$3 each or ten for \$15. Drawing is on November 12, no need to be present to win and tickets will be available at the Fair on the 12th. • Mickey's Car Wash in Pleasant Valley Crossing in Sutton will host

a Grand Opening for its Detail Shop, Retail Shop and Pet Wash from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with live music, food trucks, demonstrations, promotions and holiday gifts.

• Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., welcomes Kathleen Webster O'Malley, author of "The Healing Wisdom of Dreams," published this year by Hay House, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Signed copies of the book will be available, or pre-order by contacting the store at 508-949-6232 or deb@bookloversgourmet.com.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

• Millbury First Congregational

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 9

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Where there's a hero, there's a home, here in Central MA

BY ROD LEE

Bill Roland and Maria Reed were not selling the popular featured fruit at Dudley Grange #163's annual Apple Festival on October 1st. But this did not mean their presence wasn't an important part of the proceedings.

"Homes for Heroes," Mr. Roland said, as he handed

Szymczak, who is also with RE/MAX Advantage 1, are among approximately fifty agents working the program in the Commonwealth, she said.

Homes for Heroes was launched in Minneapolis in 2002 by current CEO Ruth Johnson and her family. The program has donated more than \$1.2 million through its Foundation. Its Circle

25% of that goes directly back to our heroes," she said. "The other 5% goes to the Homes for Heroes Foundation, for grants to medical, teachers, military organizations for the disabled."

Ms. Casey-Luong is proud of her efforts on behalf of heroes. "I am the No. 1 Homes for Heroes agent in Massachusetts. I have



Maria Reed of RE/MAX Advantage 1 in Worcester and Bill Roland of Inland Home Mortgage in Charlton spread the word about Homes for Heroes during Dudley Grange #163's annual Apple Fest.

a visitor to their booth on Center Road a flyer. "It's a national program, twenty years of giving back." He is a realtor with Inland Home Mortgage in Charlton.

Mr. Roland and Ms. Reed are part of a network of affiliate real estate offices, mortgage lenders and business specialists across the country whose mission is to help firefighters, EMS, law-enforcement, military (active, reserves and veterans), health-care professionals and teachers buy, sell or refinance a home.

Since being formed in the aftermath of 9/11, Homes for Heroes has served over 56,000 individuals and families, many of them right here in Central Massachusetts, according to Diane Casey-Luong, a realtor with RE/MAX Advantage 1 in Worcester.

Talking about her own role in the initiative in RE/MAX Advantage 1's office on Union St. in Worcester on October 11th, Ms. Casey-Luong said she got involved with Homes for Heroes "about three years ago." She and Jo-Ann

of Giving arm has poured money into community as well.

"I have been extremely active promoting it," Ms. Casey-Luong said. "This Saturday, I will be at a golf tournament at Green Hill to benefit the Manny Foundation"—a cause initiated after the tragic death of Worcester Police Officer Emmanuel "Manny" Familia.

Ms. Casey-Luong's husband is also a Worcester cop.

RE/MAX Advantage 1 is a strong supporter of Homes for Heroes. "A week or so ago we were at Polar Park for a baseball game between police and firefighters," Ms. Casey-Luong said. "It was called after three and a half innings because of rain. The firefighters declared themselves winners! Over \$15,000 was raised from tickets and concessions. We contributed about \$2300 to that total."

The "reward" that heroes receive comes from the realtor's commission. "We pay 30% of our commission fee to Homes for Heroes and

rewarded about thirty-five heroes and we are going to reach our \$100,000 mark," she said. "Right now I have five transactions closing in October. I am married to a police officer here in the city and I know a lot of other people who would be eligible for assistance through this program," she said. "Four hundred of them right next door," she added, in a reference to the WPD.

"It's amazing, not a lot of people know about Homes for Heroes," Ms. Casey-Luong said.

That is changing, one event and one home sold, at a time.

"This is one of the best programs that I have seen since retiring from the U.S. Navy in 2006, where something is done to help veterans from start to finish," a vet named "Bobby" was quoted as saying on the Homes for Heroes flyer.

For more information, visit HomesforHeroes.com.

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

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 NOVEMBER 19 • 8PM

DAVE O'GARA'S ROCK AND ROLL ROAD SHOW DANCE PARTY
 DECEMBER 2 • 7:30PM

THREE FUNNY LADIES
 KELLY MACFARLAND, CAROLYN PLUMMER, KATHE FARRIS
 DECEMBER 16 • 8PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE FLOCK
 DECEMBER 31 • 6:30PM

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BY ROD LEE

The buzz in the neighborhood began soon after the banner was strung across the front of what was Jube's, announcing the arrival before long of a new restaurant—Reunion Tap & Table.

Residents of the town of Northbridge and surrounding communities are hungry for just such an establishment, Sargon

Make way for Reunion Tap & Table, in Whitinsville

Hanna, an owner of Reunion Tap & Table, said on October 19th.

They may have to wait a little while longer, however. But hiring is underway.

"We are looking to open in December or January," Mr. Hanna said. The premises previously occupied by Jube's, in the Whitinsville Plaza on Providence Road, are undergoing an extensive renovation. The rebuild, which is being done by Paul Apkrian Architects of Westborough, involves ripping out the

tables, floors and ceilings that were in place and will include the addition of a bar.

This will be a second location for Reunion Tap & Table, a companion to the storefront the restaurant has occupied on Worcester St. in North Grafton for about four years and that is doing well.

"We are looking to expand and this is an underserved market," Mr. Hanna said. "People have been clamoring for a new restaurant, as they were in

Grafton and we have killed it here. The space we are moving into in Whitinsville made sense. It's the 2.0 version of Reunion Tap & Table, a smaller footprint."

Mr. Hanna described the menu as being highlighted by "pizza, burgers and wings" but if North Grafton is any indication, it will be much more extensive than that—and a welcome addition to the dining scene in the lower Blackstone Valley.

Reunion Tap & Table's mantra is "familiar food



The storefront in the Whitinsville Plaza formerly occupied by Jube's will be home to Reunion Tap & Table.

favorites and craft beers" and cocktails.

The countdown is on to the day the doors open.

Send your restaurant/food news to Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or call 774-232-2999.

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 7

Church's 30th annual Turkey Raffle will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post, 16 South Main St. Grand Prize is \$500 cash; 2nd Prize is a Bose Sound Touch 20 Wireless Music System; 3rd Prize is a 32" Samsung Smart TV; 4th Prize is a Case of Assorted Wine. Refreshments including hot dogs and surprises will be available for purchase. Raffle tickets can be bought at Goretto's on November 15th.

NOVEMBER 18 & 19

The Uxbridge High School Drama Club will present "The Play That Goes Wrong" by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields in the UHS Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The play is presented with permission from Dramatists Play Service Inc. In 2015 The Play That Goes Wrong won Best Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards. It has been running since 2012 in

London. Forty-four UHS students are involved in this production. Tickets will be available at the door; \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The Blackstone Valley Wine & Chocolate Tasting with a live auction, raffles, prizes and vendors will be held at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, at 7:00 p.m. This event is offered in collaboration with Marty's Fine Wines, The Candy Shoppe and The Afterglow Boutique. Tickets are \$40, \$50 at the door and may be purchased at UniBank in Whitinsville or Uxbridge or online at www.facebook.com/BVWinetasting. Proceeds benefit the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter and the Blackstone Valley Rotary Scholarship Fund.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Kerrie Evers at the Progressive Club, 18

Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 3

Shop Small 01588 will be held in downtown Whitinsville, with dozens of businesses taking part in the passport-style event for an entire week, starting on Small Business Saturday.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

The 25th anniversary of the Uxbridge First Holiday Night Celebration and Parade, a family tradition, will be held. Volunteers are welcome for the event. Stop by the Mendon Street Kitchen for more information.

The Sutton Chain of Lights will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring family fun with free trolleys, boutique shops, local products, handmade gifts, specialty items and services for all the people on your Christmas list.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

The Webster Dudley Business Alliance's Holiday Party will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Party will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Realtor Association of Central Massachusetts, 492 Washington St., Auburn. Bring an unwrapped toy and a door prize. All donations will benefit Auburn Youth & Family Services.



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ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY NOV. 21 AND PICKED UP ON NOV. 24 BETWEEN 11 AM & 2 PM
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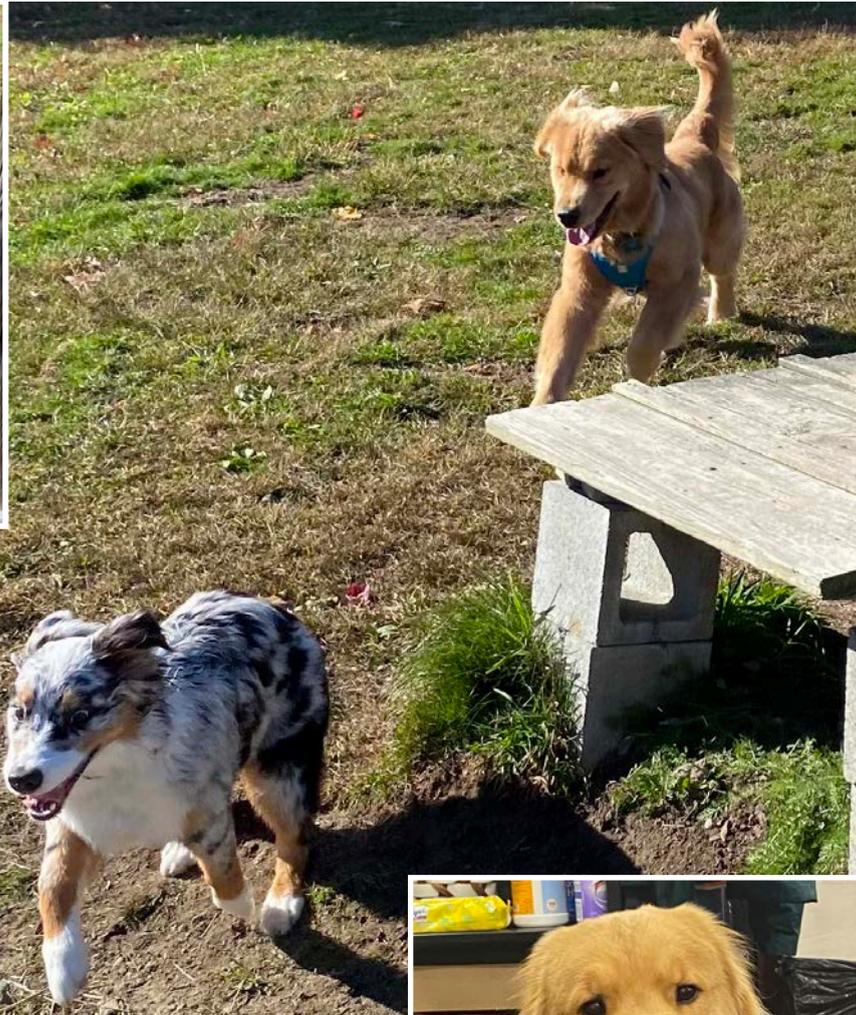
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Luke visits Butler Farm Bark Park of Millbury

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

Luke is one of the more social puppies I've had, especially when it comes to playing with other dogs. Luckily, my neighborhood is full of interesting dogs for Luke to bump shoulders with. He's learned to bark back in the face of aggression, romp with rambunctious rescues, and chase after sleek dogs built like greyhounds. When it comes to Dog Play, Luke never gives up. For this reason, we have called him a Scrapper. He's even invented a signature move, ramming his shoulder and one side of his body against a bigger dog, as would a defensive back.

He'll sit on the front steps, ears lifted in curiosity, to watch leashed dogs walk by. Often times, a friend will prance onto my front



lawn to invite spontaneous play. "Hi Luke. Let's play!" Rosie, an exuberant Goldendoodle, flounces onto the front steps. "No more resting. Let's get this party started!" Luke responds as he always does. He sits with a quiet aloofness, as though needing to make an independent choice. He lifts his big puppy head to sniff the air, twitches his nose and thinks over the idea. Then—"Game on!" Just like that, Luke has convinced

himself that he's in. The two dogs dash around my house like running fools.

Despite Luke's social nature, I still felt apprehensive about a trip (his first) to Butler Farm Bark Park, a dog park located in Millbury and "funded through the generosity of the Stanton Foundation and donations from local business, non-profit organizations and individual dog lovers." The park boasts charming bridges to climb upon, a water station for dirty paws, a leash hitch, and spacious area for running. The park is everything a Dog Mom could hope for. Still, I found myself worrying about little Luke. What if a Pit-bull with low self-esteem attacked him? What if the adult dogs don't like the color of his coat? Questions passed through my mind while I parked.

We arrive and make our

way to the gate. A pack of dogs stiffen their necks from high ground in the park ground. "A newcomer!!" They rush towards the gate entrance to greet a pup named Luke Valentino. A few dogs poke their noses through the bars of the gate. One barks and this dog creates a domino effect until we're greeted by a crescendo of yelping. The sunny Friday weather has definitely

let the dogs out of the house, I think to myself. There are about five dogs waiting for Luke to enter. I begin to stereotype them. In my mind, they are villains behind a jail cell. I don't want my puppy to play.

"Hello there! Don't mind these guys. They're fine." A sprightly Dog Mom struts over to the gate entrance, sensing my apprehension. "Don't be afraid." I can tell she's a veteran Dog Parker who knows the ropes. Still, I'm afraid.

"It's just that Luke is still a puppy. I'm a bit nervous," I say back.

"He can wait here until he's ready to join the group." She guides me to a smaller, gated area at the border of the main park. Grateful for the veteran's compassion, I lead Luke to seclusion. "Am I in a time-out?" He sniffs the ground anxiously.

We are protected. The Dog Park feels suddenly perfect. Then the gate latch



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jingles. A sleek, muscular dog strolls in. His ears are small and pointy. His coat is the bright grey of a newly minted nickel.

"Is he a Pitbull??"

The accusation is inappropriate, even unfair. The owner responds casually, with indifference. Perhaps he's used to the comment. "He's not a Pitbull. He's only seven months, still a puppy?"

"Luke is a puppy as well!" I croon, hoping to redeem myself with a clever dog connection. Luke tugs at me. "I want to play with the non-pit pup!!"

The owner opens the door of the time-out section. Maybe I was dis-

LUKE

continued on page 11

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Are steering shafts on Chevy El Caminos interchangeable?



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. How can I avoid my 2018 Mercedes Benz E-400 from draining the battery because I do not use it frequently?

A. The best thing you can do is to drive the car for 30 minutes once a week or so. If that isn't possible and you park in a garage with an electrical outlet and battery maintainer (float charger), that is a ideal method to keep the battery fully charged. Once installed it is simply a quick disconnect plug under the hood or through the grill. Deltran Battery Tender and CTEK are quality brands. If you are parking outside, a solar charger may keep the battery charged depending on how much sunlight the car gets.

Q. Recently I'm experiencing what I believe is a tire balance problem. It occurs between 60-70 miles per hour. Below or above that speed I have no problem. It feels like I am running over a rough roadway with a rumbling sensation. I tried to have a high-speed rebalancing of tires, (not the Road Force Balancer that you have recommended). The tires have 45,000 miles on them and I'm thinking of having all four tires replaced. Is there a service device that would duplicate the tire imbalance sensation at that speed of 60-70mph? What are your

thoughts?

A. From you description it sounds like a tire balance issue. It could be a tire, rim or combination of both. Years back we had on-car high speed balancers that could spin the tires and you were balancing the hub, wheel and tire, these machines are generally long gone. Although high-speed balancing machines allow for easy and quick balancing, I see mistakes being made with technicians not paying attention to balance weight placement, the wheels themselves or rust buildup on the wheels/hubs. At 45,000 miles and with the Farmer's Almanac (if you put any belief in this publication) predicting a snowy cold winter replacing the tires with an all-weather tire would be money well spent.

Q. Any opinion on Volvo's long-term reliability? We own three in our family and purchased them for their overall safety records. We are a little worried about cost of maintenance and repairs. Lastly any suggestions on aftermarket brake rotors? The rotors on two of the cars have been replaced under warranty twice because they warp slightly and cause brake chatter.

A. Typically, Volvos are about average or slightly above when it comes to maintenance and reliability not quite to the level of an Acura or Lexus but generally a little better than some other luxury and near luxury brands. Regarding rotors, generally there is nothing better than factory parts, but Bendix, Raybestos, Centric, Brembo are generally a good choice for Volvo and one that is recommended on Volvo forums is DuraGo-which I'm just starting to see more of. You could try to move up to a drilled rotor which can offer better cooling which may help. Stay away from high-performance slotted rotors which are good for track cars not great for general use. Also, when the wheels are removed for tire rotation or any other work, they should be reinstalled using a torque wrench.

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions

each week. Email your car questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, mrjohnfpaul.

Q. I'm trying to replace a damaged steering column in a 1987 Chevy El Camino. I got one from a 1986 Chevy El Camino but where the transmission linkage hooks up to the column is in a different position on the 1986 than the one from the 1987. Would you know if they are compatible with each other?

A. Although both parts are discontinued, looking at the exploded view and parts numbers on GMpartsdirect.com, both years use the same internal shafts. So based on this, the steering columns should have some level of interchangeability. The other option is to go with an aftermarket which is available through several specialty GM parts sites. Going aftermarket gives you the ability to go with a shorter or longer column that may make the car more comfortable to drive.

LUKE

continued from page 10

tracted. Maybe I let my guard down upon learning that another puppy is here to join us. In any event, I didn't expect Luke to break free but he does just that, and finds the gate opening to the jungle of big dogs. I feel small and helpless. I watch my pup enter the park and pray that everyone will play nice. Four dogs rush towards Luke and sniff his body at all sides, an initial frisk, a rite of passage it seems. Luke lowers his head. His ears are pinned back like a bunny's while the dogs encircle him like vultures. "What have I done? Will the dogs play nice?" I feel my heart skip a beat.

"Bring it on!" Luke isn't concerned about playing nice. Instead, he chases the

tail of a Shetland Sheepdog, then snaps back around to growl at the Black Lab sniffing his butt. "I'm playing with the Shetland!" He stands his ground, even growling to fend off two dogs at once. I can barely believe my eyes. My puppy, whose name contains the letters L, O, V, E, has figured out how to handle multiple personalities at the dog park.

I perch on a wooden bridge in the center of the park that reminds me of the fairytale, The Three Billy Goat's Gruff. Other dogs, sensing that I'm a Dog Person more than I am a troll, wander over to sit beside me. Beneath a sunny, autumn sky, I hang out with them while my own plays freely below. The dogs lick my face and hand me their paws. They nestle close and love me unconditionally. I realize, then, that I have not

given these dogs enough credit. They look into my eyes with acceptance and a gentle understanding, as though to say, "Your puppy is safe with us." Something tells me they're right. Dogs always know the truth.

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Find them: www.butlerfarmdogpark.com

Follow Luke Valentino: [instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino](https://www.instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino)

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REAL ESTATE



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Should you still buy a home with the latest news about inflation?

While the Federal Reserve is working hard to bring down inflation, the latest data shows the inflation rate is still high, remaining around 8%. This news impacted the stock market and added fuel to the fire for conversations about a

recession.

You're likely feeling the impact in your day-to-day life as you watch the cost of goods and services climb. The squeeze it has on your wallet and the looming economic uncertainty may leave you wondering: "should I still buy a home right now?" If that question is top of mind for you, here's what you need to know.

Homeownership is historically a great hedge against inflation as I have stated in previous columns. In an inflationary economy, prices rise across the board. Historically, homeownership is a great hedge against those rising costs because you can lock

in what's likely your largest monthly payment (your mortgage) for the duration of your loan. That helps stabilize some of your monthly expenses.

A fixed-rate mortgage allows you to maintain the biggest portion of housing expenses at the same payment. Sure, property taxes will rise and other expenses may creep up, but your monthly housing payment remains the same. If you wait and the interest rate continues to climb, (which is likely to happen) you will be further behind by locking in at yet a higher rate later on. And with rents being as high as they are, the ability to stabilize your monthly pay-

ments and protect yourself from future rent hikes may be even more important. Inflation refuses to budge. In September, consumer prices rose by 8.2%. Rents rose by 7.2%, the highest pace in 40 years.

When you rent, your monthly payment is determined by your lease, which typically renews on an annual basis. With inflation high, your landlord may be more likely to increase your payments to offset the impact of inflation. That may be part of the reason why a survey from realtor.com shows 72% of landlords said they plan to raise the rent on one or more of their properties in the next year.

Becoming a homeowner, if you're ready and able to do so, can provide lasting stability and a reliable shelter in times of economic uncertainty.

The best hedge against inflation is a fixed housing cost. If you're ready to learn more and start your journey to homeownership, connect with Marzeottigroup.net/617-519-1871 or another real estate professional today.

Happy Thanksgiving!
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TALES FROM BEYOND

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Vermont's Dorset Inn, home of 'The General'

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Dorset is your quintessential Vermont village, complete with a green, shops, and a few inns where travelers can stay a night or two and relish in the atmosphere of the little hamlet.

The Dorset Inn is such a place. Since 1796, the Dorset Inn has welcomed travelers on their journey to areas such as Boston, Massachusetts and Albany, New York. The inn became a popular stop for many to partake in some food, beverages, and fresh beds. Many stayed for weeks or even months as the region provided many outdoor activities and exploration.

There are thirty-five beautifully decorated guest rooms, and several are part of the original structure where guests can enjoy the views of Vermont's picturesque countryside. The Dorset is also renowned for its fabulous cuisine. The Wine Spectator voted the establishment as one of America's best restaurants in 2008. Diners can enjoy

fine fare in the historic red dining room or tavern. They may have the opportunity to meet the oldest guest of the inn, a ghost the staff affectionately calls "The General."

The general has been seen by staff and guests alike. He is dressed in a dark military uniform with gold braid, much like that of the Civil War. According to members of the Dorset staff, he is often seen in the taproom. One employee claimed to have seen him on the third floor, but his appearance there is rare. He has also been accompanied on occasion by a woman in an old-fashioned long skirt and a child. No one knows when he will make his appearance, and his exact identity is lost to antiquity, but he still likes to make an appearance now and then.

Our friends and fellow paranormal investigators, Robert Hughes and Victoria Julian-Hughes, once stayed at the Dorset Inn during one of their many tours of Vermont. As avid paranormal enthusiasts and investigators, it was natural for

them to want to explore the premises during their visit. Owners Steve and Lauren Bryant allowed them to do a vigil or two around the building and even showed them the cellar, which was reported to be a part of the Underground Railroad.

During their investigations, they collected a few interesting pieces of paranormal evidence. One is what appears to be a bluish orb moving across the basement, and the others are EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomenon). The EVP session took place in Room 35, where The General is reported to visit from time to time. Among the several questions asked during a particular EVP session, Vickie politely inquired, "How old are you?" The answer was very audible and sounded like "Ten." Simultaneously, the lights on a piece of a spirit communication device lit up and stayed lit. She then asked, "Where did you come from?" A faint, one-word answer came through, "Here."

The rest of the inves-



The Dorset Inn in Vermont, where guests and staff alike have seen "The General."

tigation was quiet, but it appears they may have contacted the child's spirit that sometimes accompanies the ghost of The General, or perhaps it is altogether another spirit. With a place that is over 225 years old, it can be assured there is a lot of energy lingering within. But, do not worry, all of

it is friendly and positive. That is why the Dorset Inn is such a wonderful place to visit and stay; it has the endorsement of some permanent guests. If they are not in a hurry to leave, then

it must be a nice place to relax, at least for an evening or two, while basking in the history and hospitality the inn offers.

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CHIEF'S CORNER

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Mass. License Plates

BY CHIEF STEVEN J. WOJNAR
DUDLEY POLICE
DEPARTMENT

I was recently asked a question about the lettering of Massachusetts vehicle license plates. Vanity and specialty plates (Whales, Patriots, Cape and Islands, etc.), are issued by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT). These can often be confusing when the number "0" or the letter "O" appear on these plates. I

was asked if these numbers or letters are still in use here in Massachusetts.

As is often the case, vanity or specialty plates can contain a wide combination of numbers and letters. All vanity plates are approved for use and issued by the Mass DOT – Registry of Motor Vehicles. Massachusetts does allow for both the number "0" as well as the letter "O" to be used on number plates. To address some of the potential confusion, the

style of these numbers and letters is altered slightly to provide a different appearance. Photo examples are available online which show the letter "O" appearing on a license plate, in a more block style fashion. This means the top, bottom, and both sides are straight with 90 degree, angled corners. Its shape resembles that of a rectangle. The number "0" remains oval in appearance with the top and bottom being rounded. The differences are not immediately

apparent when looking at them quickly, however; if you pay particular attention to this factor in the future, you will see a difference.

If you have any plates with these characters contained in them, there may be some confusion if outside people (police departments, parking clerks, etc.) or license plate readers check the vehicle status.

This may require some further documentation to insure you are not the subject of any fines or charges.

All these plates are official and are approved for use by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. They must be displayed on both the front and rear of the vehicle. If you are interested, check online for example photos of the letter "O" under the Mass DOT issued number plates.

For those still seeking vaccination or COVID related information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling The Board of Health 508-949-8036. During these

challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St. Dudley, Ma. 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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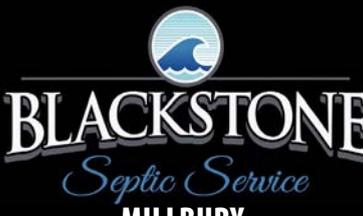
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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

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Here's your 'recession survival' checklist



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

It's unfortunate, but recessions are a fairly normal part of the economic landscape. When a recession occurs, how might you be affected? The answer depends on your individual situation, but regardless of your circumstances, you might want to consider the items in this recession survival checklist:

Assess your income stability. If your employment remains steady, you may not have to do anything different during a recession. But if you think your income could be threatened or disrupted, you might want to consider joining the "gig economy" or looking

for freelance or consulting opportunities.

Review your spending. Look for ways to trim your spending, such as canceling subscription services you don't use, eating out less often, and so on.

Pay down your debts. Try to reduce your debts, especially those with high interest rates.

Plan your emergency fund. If you haven't already built one, try to create an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account.

Review your protection plan. If your health or life insurance is tied to your work, a change in your employment status could jeopardize this coverage. Review all your options for replacing these types of protection. Also, look for ways to lower premiums on home or auto insurance, without significantly sacrificing coverage, to free up money that could be used for health/life insurance.

Keep your long-term

goals in mind. Even if you adjust your portfolio during times of volatility, don't lose sight of your long-term goals. Trying to "outsmart" the market with short-term strategies can often lead to missteps and missed opportunities.

Don't stop investing. If you can afford it, try to continue investing. Coming out of a recession, stock prices tend to bottom out and then rebound, so if you had headed to the investment "sidelines," you would have missed the opportunity to benefit from a market rally.

Revisit your performance expectations. During a bear market, you will constantly be reminded of the decline of a particular market index, such as the S&P 500 or the Dow Jones Industrial Average. But instead of focusing on these short-term numbers, look instead at the long-term performance of your portfolio to determine if you're still on track toward meeting your goals.

Assess your risk tolerance. If you find yourself

worrying excessively about declines in your investment statements, you may want to reevaluate your tolerance for risk. One's risk tolerance can change over time — and it's important you feel comfortable with the amount of risk you take when investing.

Keep diversifying. Diversification is always important for investors — by having a mix of stocks, mutual funds and bonds, you can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. To cite one example: Higher-quality bonds, such as Treasuries, often move in the opposite direction of stocks, so the presence of these bonds in your portfolio, if appropriate for your goals, can be valuable when market conditions are worsening. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification cannot guarantee profits or protect against all losses in a declining market.)

A recession accompanied by a bear market is not pleasant. But by taking the appropriate steps, you can boost your chances of

getting through a difficult period and staying on track toward your important financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Den-

nis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones Member SIPC

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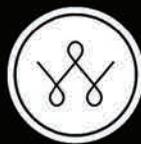
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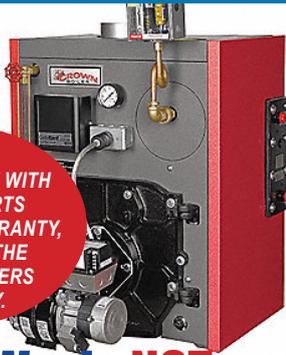
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Check our Facebook page for Weekly Specials!



Find us on: facebook.

New Ice Cream Flavors

- Pumpkin Pie
- Orange Cranberry
- Bourbon Apple Pie
- Egg Nog

Also offering:

- Pumpkin Pie Sundae
- Apple Cider Donut Ala Mode
- Warm Apple Crisp w/Vanilla Ice Cream

Now Offering Kiddie Cones



Drinks for Fall.....

- Barn Burner
- Warm Apple Cider Drinks
- Drunken Pumpkin (Pumpkin Pie Ice Cream with Rumchata or Vodka)
- Frozen Turkey Cocktail Shake (whiskey, bourbon, amaretto & pecan ice cream)
- Egg Nog Shake with Spiced Rum



Thanksgiving Pies & Cakes



Now offering 6", 8", and 10" **Ice Cream Cakes**
Any Pie or Cake can be made as an adult dessert with alcohol of choice. One of our customer favorites is **Frozen Mudslide Cake.**

185 West Main St. • Dudley, MA 01571 • 774-696-0193